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IMF Blunder Leads to Funding Crisis

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

Hamilton students preparing to see Yeasayer tonight will be attending one of the last performances sponsored by the Independent Music Fund and WHCL Hamilton College Radio this year; the upcoming Oct. 11 performance by Jamie Lidell will be the last concert sponsored by the group for the 08-09 academic year. As a result of a violation of Hamilton College funding policy, IMF was put on financial probation, and will be unable to book artists or host shows beyond those already booked last year, including the well-attended Mayday festival. WHCL is using its funding to cover the performance by Lidell.

The suspension of funding can be traced back to July, when IMF was in talks with the Windish Agency to book a performance at the beginning of this year. After booking Lidell last semester in an event co-sponsored by IMF and WHCL, the Windish Agency contacted IMF about booking further shows in the future. Through an exchange of e-mails, IMF indicated a tentative date for Yeasayer to perform, a possible price and expressed the desire to book. The Windish Agency, which represents hundreds of bands, including Diplo, Animal Collective, RJD2, and Madlib, considered this communication a legally binding contract.

In an interview with *The Spectator*, Assistant Director of Student Activities Paul Ryan detailed what happened next: "The agency said to IMF, you're going to confirm, or we'll never work with Hamilton again." The Student Activities and Publications Board, now facing the loss of cooperation of a premier talent agency in booking future performances, decided to follow the accidental contract, bailing out IMF, which would not have been able to cover the cost of tonight's performance on its own.

This booking snafu was in major violation of the funding code for student organizations; Hamilton students are prohibited from signing contracts with any agency or performer or from entering into an agreement without adequate funding. IMF did both, resulting in a probationary suspension of funding. WHCL was brought into the funding probation as well; according to Ryan, "It's hard to distinguish between IMF and WHCL, because the membership is almost identical." Ryan further stated that it was deemed inappropriate

see IMF, page 3

COMPILED BY CHRIS EATON '11

Jamie Lidell and Yeasayer will be the last performers sponsored by IMF this year.

Students Remember 9/11

by Haley Reimer-Peltz '12
News Writer

Yesterday marked the seven-year anniversary of September 11, 2001, on which day nearly 3,000 men and women died, including three Hamilton alumni. There were various informal ceremonies of remembrance, including a lunchtime interfaith discussion on the Commons balcony, and an afternoon candlelight vigil on Martin's Way outside of Commons.

Rev. Jeff McArn, the college's chaplain, led the lunchtime discussion and was active in the other memorial events. The purpose of the discussion was to give people an opportunity to be together for support in an informal setting.

"My goal is to include the campus community to whatever degree the community wants to be involved," McArn said. "Although it's a healthy instinct to want to forget the terror, it's important to keep it close enough to remember."

Around thirty people came to stand at the vigil. The ceremony started by giving anyone who had something to say the chance to speak. People shared stories of how they remembered the day, of people they knew involved in the tragedy, and overall reflections on how 9/11 has affected us at Hamilton and in the world. "Amazing Grace" was sung as a flame was passed from candle to candle.

There was a much larger gathering at the first anniversary of 9/11. The following year the college held a vigil at the library steps.

"The tradition of the flags has continued for three years, but the remembrance has decreased a little each year," remarked McArn.

The Hamilton Democrats and Republicans came together to organize the candlelight vigil outside of Commons. The two clubs also set up the 3,000 American flags flanking Martin's Way as a visual reminder of the lives that were lost. The event was largely facilitated by Hamilton Republicans representative Tim Minella '09 and Hamilton Democrats President Rachel Horowitz '09, both of whom were speakers at the ceremony.

"Ever since 2006, the college Democrats and Republicans have worked together to set up the display of flags," commented Minella. "[The display] is a small thing, but it's important to recognize the day."

Another student who has been active in the organization of the 9/11 memorials is fellow Hamilton Republicans member, John McRae '09. There was not much going on his first year to commemorate the event, but the following year the two political clubs got together to create the flag display.

McRae commented on the significance of the ceremony: "Looking back at history, we tend to aggregate things, and see 9/11 merely as propelling us into the Iraq war. The personal dimension often gets lost, and that's why the memorial is important."

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Candlelight vigil.

Campus Reacts to Great Names

by Daniel Steinman '12
News Writer

The announcement that comedian and Daily Show host John Stewart would be the next speaker in the Sacerdote Great Name Series echoed throughout the campus this past week. It is very hard to find someone who is disappointed with the choice. Over all, the Hamilton student body seems thrilled. When asked for their response to the news, it is surprising just how many students used the word "awesome," (commonly preceded by an expletive).

"I've never seen students this excited about a Great Name speaker," said Stuart Lombardi '09, commenting that he thought there would be a much higher turnout of students for Stewart than for other speakers in past years. Why? "He's a cultural icon," said Lombardi.

Unsurprisingly, many students remarked that Stewart is "funny" or "hilarious" and that they are fans of his show. Of course, not all students are as enthusiastic. Some students, in fact, said they really did not watch him at all.

Students' interests in Stewart speaking are not limited to enjoying his humor. Max Wall '11 said, "It's going to be interesting to see his world views [when he is] not censored by cable television, especially because it will be a week after the election."

Ben Schwartz '12 expressed the reactions of many first-year students: "I wondered how we got such a prominent speaker at our school of 1800." Apparently, Stewart rarely performs at colleges.

When asked, most faculty members claimed they were neutral to the choice of Stewart as this year's speaker, but almost all of them recognized the excitement of many of their students. Still, others were very enthusiastic.

see Stewart, page 2

4 First Year Student Assembly Platforms
7 The Candidates You Don't Know
12 Spectator Under the Sheets
15 Tull '92 Sponsors Film Challenge
20 Men's Soccer Home Opener

Stewart Reaction

from Stewart, page 1

Sociology professor Daniel Chambliss agreed that Stewart was a "great name." Chambliss shared his view: "I think, in the world of what he does, he is very good. In a way, he has created a new form of political critique." Chambliss explained that even though Stewart's show is comedy, it frequently deals with very serious subject matter. "In a lot of cases, he deals with issues that are actually more important than what the mainstream press [focuses on.]"

Peter Rabinowitz, professor of comparative literature, is one of the faculty members that questions the choice to devote the funds provided by the Sacerdote Great Name endowment to bring well-known comedians to campus. "The title of the Great Names series betrays the superficiality of the whole project; it's not 'Great Thinkers' or 'Great Artists' but 'Great Names.'" He pointed out that each year the Sacerdote Great Name speaker is usually a politician or entertainer with celebrity status.

Like some other professors, Rabinowitz would prefer the college-sponsored event to have more of an academic focus. "I'd rather have some real intellectuals," he said. "If, however, we are simply going after celebrities, Jon Stewart would be my first choice."

This year, since this event will be held in the fall rather than the spring as it has in recent years, this will have a small impact on the practice schedules of indoor winter sports, including men's and women's basketball as well as track and field. Senior Associate Director of Physical Plant Frank Marsicane explained that although significantly larger attendance is expected for Stewart than for Aretha Franklin last year, the number of seats available in the Margaret Bundy Scott Fieldhouse will not be increased. "We limit the capacity to just under 5000 people," he said. "Any event with over 5000 people requires a special New York permit." Space is set aside for all local high schools within about 50 miles, he said.

The Physical Plant will be working overtime after Stewart's appearance to prepare the gym for the men's basketball home opener the weekend after.

Student Assembly Talks Freshmen Elections

by Amanda Jordan '11

Student Assembly Correspondent

On September 8, 2008, the Student Assembly held their second meeting of the semester. One of the major issues on the agenda regarded course description booklets, which Hamilton no longer provides students. Instead, students are encouraged to go online to view course descriptions as well as major and minor requirements. Also, students are expected to meet with their advisors before selecting their semester schedules. Advisors are provided with abridged versions of the booklet. At the meeting, the discussion concerned whether Hamilton should provide the booklets or another alternative. These alternatives include: encouraging professors to put their course syllabuses online, making the website more navigable when searching for courses, or providing the booklet only for those students who request it. Student Assembly will continue to discuss this issue and will have an update in several weeks.

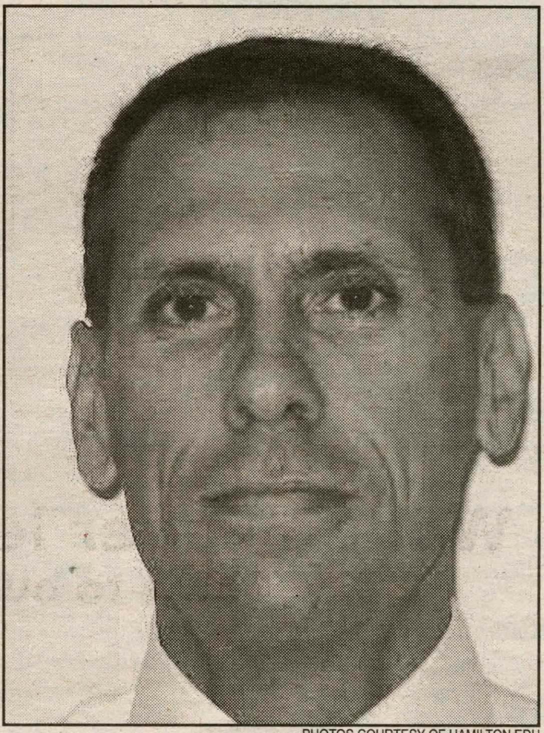
The upcoming freshman elections was another significant issue under discussion. The elections will be held on Tuesday, September 16. Student Assembly was largely concerned with the role of *The Spectator* in these elections and agreed that *The Spectator* should not report any bias when publishing information about the candidates. Specifically, they unanimously passed a resolution encouraging the newspaper not to endorse any specific candidates for fear of losing the legitimacy of the elections, since *The Spectator* is the only campus newspaper and would therefore be the only published opinion. However, they did encourage *The Spectator* to publish the candidates' platforms, and if possible, interviews with the candidates. The Assembly would like to bring campus-wide attention to the elections. They also considered amending the constitution regarding this issue regarding the endorsement of candidates for SA elections.

Among other items discussed, Tiffany Sanders '11 resigned from the Student Assembly Secretarial position, and Brandon Moore '12 has now taken the position. Also, funding was given to Democracy Matters, HEAG, Newman Council, and STAND. There will be a meeting this Sunday, September 14, from 12 – 5 p.m. so that students can submit additional funding proposals for the semester. Student Assembly will announce the funding received at the next meeting on Monday, September 15.

Manfredo, Tonetti and Rose: A New Year Brings New Faces to the Hill

by Meredith Kennedy '09

News Writer



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAMILTON.EDU

Director of Financial Aid Melissa Beneway Rose and Campus Safety Director Francis Manfredo.

Melissa Beneway Rose is Hamilton's new director of Financial Aid as of July 2008. Rose earned her Bachelor's of Business Administration Degree in Management Information Systems from the University in Oklahoma and has gained several years of experience working in the field. Rose comes to the Hill after working in the technical support group at Purdue and Western Lafayette, as well as at Johns Hopkins University as Associate Director of Financial Aid at the School of Medicine.

Rose's background in financial aid systems has helped make her transition to Hamilton a smooth one. "The community welcomed me with arms wide open," Rose said, adding that "Hamilton takes care of their employees and it is an absolute honor and privilege to work here." Rose already feels at home in the Financial Aid office, and is excited to raise her two small children in such a friendly environment.

Francis Manfredo, who replaced Pat Ingalls, is the new Director of Campus Safety. Manfredo has two Bachelor's Degrees in Fire Service Administration Emergency Management and is also a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Manfredo recently retired from the Utica Fire Department after twenty-three years as the Assistant Fire Chief. In addition to his new responsibilities at Hamilton, Manfredo continues to work part-time as a patrol officer for the New Hartford Police Department.

Manfredo sees his new position at Hamilton as "an exceptional opportunity to bring both fire and patrol safety into one job." As a nearby resident, Manfredo finds Hamilton to be a great working environment. He is still learning the ropes, but like former Director of Campus Safety Pat Ingalls, Manfredo is working hard to be dedicated to the college community. "There will be changes," Manfredo said. "My goal is to work with the faculty, staff, and students to have an even safer campus." He is looking forward to a positive experience on the Hill.

Peter Tonetti is Hamilton's new Chief Investment Officer. A Colgate graduate, Tonetti earned his Bachelor's Degree in Economics before going on to earn his Master's from MIT's Sloan School of Management. Although Tonetti hails from one of Hamilton's rivals, he has always held the Hill in high regard. Tonetti spent most of his professional career working for Exxon on their traveling auto staff in both Houston and New York until 1988, when he began working for Phillips Electronics North America.

In August, Tonetti returned to his upstate New York roots to manage Hamilton's endowment. "It's been a big learning process, like trying to drink from a fire hose," Tonetti admitted. However, the help from colleagues and the welcoming atmosphere of Hamilton has helped make the transition to the challenging position a little smoother. "Hamilton is a great place to be," Tonetti exclaimed, excited about his future on the Hill.

Peter Tonetti's photo unavailable.

IMF Funds Frozen; Mayday Show a No-Go

*from **Funding Crisis**, page 1*

the leaders of IMF, who had performed a major managerial indiscretion, to be given the funding for similar purposes, leaving WHCL in the same predicament as IMF.

The repercussions of the funding suspensions for two major providers of musical entertainment on campus are vast; all IMF sponsored events, from smaller performances by local artists to campus wide events like Mayday, are now cancelled. The Campus Activities Board "is going to look into having an outdoor show," said Ryan, "but it's not going to be Mayday."

IMF was started in 2002 as a campus group focused on bringing alternative music, including local, underground and indie bands to Hamilton campus. Since its inception, IMF has held dozens of performances and concerts, featuring artists like Eve 6, the New Pornographers and Chromeo. Campus reaction to the upcoming shortage of campus performances is negative: "Honestly? It's just a shame," said Amber Wheeless '11, who described herself as a frequent IMF concertgoer. "I can see why they got their funding pulled, but IMF always brings the most diverse groups to campus... now there's going to be a massive vacuum in what's going on at Hamilton. It just sucks."

CAB, which hosted last week's performance by the Kooks, will attempt to fill the lack of performances over the course of the year, and IMF will in all likelihood be removed from funding probation at the start of the next academic year. "[IMF] violated funding policy, and entered a contract they shouldn't have," stated Ryan. "Now the organization has to face the consequences."

The leadership of the Independent Music Fund declined to comment on the story.

Art Renovations to Proceed Under New Architect

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Writer

The Kirner-Johnson extension may now be open for students and teachers to use, but the building flurry around the Kirkland campus has only just begun. Despite the fact that a substantial part of the Kirner-Johnson Building has yet to be completed, and the renovation of Emerson Hall is scheduled to begin next summer, an architectural firm has been hired to build and renovate three additional buildings. Two will be on the Dark Side, and all will be dedicated to the arts.

The project will see Minor Theater expanded, allowing it to become the new home to the Emerson Gallery, currently located in Christian A. Johnson Hall. Two new buildings – a theater building and a studio arts building – are planned to be constructed in the space between Kirner-Johnson and the Molly Root House.

"The theater will include two performance spaces, scene and costume shops, two studio classrooms and faculty offices," Steve Bellona, associate vice president for facilities and planning, explained. "The studio arts will include faculty offices, 2-D and 3-D classrooms and studios, audio/video production spaces, digital imaging classrooms, senior studios for 24 students, and photography darkrooms."

This past June the Board of Trustees approved the hiring of the architects Machado and Silvetti Associates. At the moment, the conceptual design, meaning primarily the interior and exterior appearance of the buildings, is being discussed and planned. This phase should be completed and ready for review by the Board of Trustees this November.

Even with planning still in progress, Bellona has a fairly good idea of what the future size and square footage of these three buildings will be. "The total square footage for the two [new] buildings will be approximately 72,000 square feet," he stated. "Minor Theater will expand from 10,000 gross square feet to approximately 29,000 square feet."

This construction project will not be starting anytime soon, however. With the Kirner-Johnson renovation still in progress and the Emerson Hall addition (the student activities office and the bookstore will be moving their permanently from Bristol) undergoing construction from June 2009 all the way through into August of 2010, there is plenty still to be done before the new art buildings can be started. The current plans predict that construction on Minor Theater and the two new art buildings will begin in the summer of 2010 (presumably after Emerson is complete) and will be completed in the fall of 2012. This means that even the current first year class will have graduated from Hamilton before these buildings are complete.

Bellona adds that this will not be the end of construction projects at the College. The List Art Center, tucked in between Kirner-Johnson, Schambach, and the Kirkland quad, is next on the Physical Plant's list for renovation. "We are discussing our options for the use of the List Art Center, and do not have any definitive plans at this time," said Bellona. Presuming this project goes ahead and construction begins in 2012, a completion date wouldn't conceivably be set any earlier than the summer of 2013.

Including Kirner-Johnson, a total of six buildings will be under construction during the next few years at the College. The major focus on the arts shows that the College and the administration plan to see this as a major resource for students in the future, as well as a selling point for prospective families.

The Career Center

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Class President

Mike Bieber

The last three weeks have inspired me to actively make this year excellent. As president, one of my main responsibilities will be to organize and oversee fundraisers, events, and most importantly epic raves for the Class of 2012. However, it is of course not my responsibility to lead the class, but for the class to lead me. Your suggestions and requests are imperative to the decisions I make to improve our mutual experience on the Hill. Please allow me to be your voice in the student assembly. Class of 2012: just leave it to Bieber, Mike Bieber.

Colin Chapin

Friends, Hamiltonians, countrymen and people of other nationalities who now attend Hamilton... I am Colin Chapin, and I am running for the position of President for the class of 2012. As president, I will unite our class with events, some sweet swag, and other activities that you would like to throw down. I've been characterized as an approachable and energetic person, and I am sure that as president I would lead our to an amazing start at college. We are called the best class to ever grace this campus, let's have a year to match that reputation. Thanks so much.

Woodger Faugus

Fellow Classmates: As a presidential aspirant, my interest to become a member of the student assembly is prompted by my fervent desire to yield to my classmates' aspirations and also by my ambition to ensure that unity, creative thinking and amicability are cherished and harbored here at Hamilton College. In my function as class president, with a spirit marked by unreserved enthusiasm, I promise to try my hardest to be of service whenever I'm needed and also to organize various delightful events recurrently. Please express your presidential preference by voting for me, an emissary who cares much about your visions.

Adam Minchew

I hope you've all had an enjoyable, safe and productive first couple weeks of school. My name is Adam Minchew, and I am running for 2012 Class President. As a presidential hopeful, it is not in my power, nor is it realistic to promise impossible change. Instead, I promise to represent the 463 diverse, intelligent, athletic (the list goes on) and overall outstanding students who comprise our bicentennial class. So whether you're in the classroom, on the field, or out parting on Saturday night, I will support your varying interests. Let's have an epic year.

Treasurer/ Secretary

Brandon Moore

Trying to sound minimally cliché, I am confident I am your best choice for Treasurer. Simultaneously serving as president of a three-hundred-member community service club and the investment club, school newspaper editor, and assistant captain of the varsity ski team, I held significant responsibility and dealt frequently and efficiently with funding issues. In any event, the past month has proven to me that the Class of 2012 definitely doesn't suck, and by that I mean is undeniably of the best ever at Hamilton. Please elect me as Treasurer so I can do as much as possible to benefit our class.

Sara Scheinson

I would like to serve as secretary-treasurer for the class of 2012 as a way to help make the current freshman class the best Hamilton has seen yet. I served as treasurer for my last three years of high school, which showed me that, I not only love organizing fundraisers and events, but I also value organized and colorful notes. As secretary-treasurer I would work to make sure that the class of 2012 sponsors crazy events and sells quality merchandise while maintaining a solid savings. So if all of that sounds good to you remember to vote for Sara Scheineson!

Honor Court Representative

Charlotte Gendron

I had the unique opportunity to attend a Quaker high school. Although I am not a Quaker, I do believe in the values that Quakers instill, one of which is integrity. At my school, I was able to learn and appreciate the role integrity plays in a community, as well as the importance of giving a level of trust to the students, and how much it strengthened our community. I want to be an Honor Court representative for Hamilton College because I would like to bring what I have learned to this community, and learn more about the Honor Code.

Tyler Roberts

Class of 2012, to get to Hamilton you put in a significant amount of effort. You may have stayed up late to finish homework assignments or gotten up early for athletic practice. Either way, you worked hard to accomplish what you have. It's really frustrating when someone else takes an unethical shortcut to achieve the same success that you worked for. I'd like to be your Honor Court Representative because I am passionate about protecting your honest efforts. At the same time, if there is not "clear and convincing" evidence of a violation I will be an advocate for dismissal.

Riley Stepnick

If I am elected Honor Court Representative, I believe that I can provide a fair but firm point of view. I am outgoing but I also know when it's time to be conscientious. I also have strong experience in the judicialarena as I served as a member of Youth Court in high school. Through this experience I have learned of the necessary balance of compassion, fairness, and austerity needed in making decisions regarding a student's future. As your Honor Court Representative I would pledge to uphold the integrity that this institution deserves. Thank you for your consideration!

Class Representative

Laura Gilson

Having been in student assembly all four years of high school and on the executive board for the last two, I am well qualified to be one of our class representatives. I would always be happy to listen to anyone's ideas and will try my best to delegate concerns that arise. I promise to be dedicated to doing my best for our class and fulfilling all the duties that come with the position. Vote for me, Laura Gilson, as our class representative and I will do my best to make sure that our freshmen year is an unforgettable one!

David Ginsberg

Hello Hamilton, my name is David Ginsberg and I am running as your class representative. I want to make a strong difference in the way that our class is represented throughout Hamilton. I understand that our college has been yearning for a leader to bring change to this campus. Graduating from a high school that was almost double the size of Hamilton in New York City, where I was the Vice-President of the entire student body, I am prepared. I have the experience to deal with all aspects of the bureaucracy.

Dana Gould

Hi, I'm Dana Gould. I was a part of student government throughout high school and I really hope to continue this year. Please vote for me for class representative!

Annie Hull

Hey, I'm Annie Hull. I'm from Newtown, Connecticut. I was on the student government at my public high school for four years. It's been great getting to know a lot of you in these first few weeks of school and I can't wait to meet more of you. I would love to represent Hamilton's freshman class of 2012 and make sure that our meek voices are heard! I would really appreciate your vote. We're in college - party on.

Richard Maass

One of life's greatest atrocities lies not in the mind of a murderous villain, but in the good man who idly stands by and watches as the world passes him by. I'm Richard Maass, a freshman here at Hamilton College, and I believe that there exists no greater evil than that of negligence. Since the beginning of my high school career I have actively engaged myself in student government and other positions of leadership including my town's school board as the student representative. By actively engaging ourselves in the world around us we can affect the course of our future.

Andrew Taub

Hello, my name is Andrew Taub and I am running for class representative. During high-school, I served as Student Council President in my senior year, as well as a grade representative in my sophomore and junior year. With this experience, I am capable of committing my time and thought, voicing *your* opinions, as well as helping to create and organize events. I would appreciate your support and look forward getting to know more of you as the year continues. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at ataub@hamilton.edu. Thank you and remember: vote for Taub!

THE SPECTATOR

Vote in this First-Year Election

This may be cliché, so bear with us:

This week our paper is running the positions of the first year candidates for the Student Assembly (SA). Some of these fellow students may be your friends, others may be your roommates and others you may have never heard of.

Now the easy place to go with this editorial is here: vote. But let's not jump the boat. Let's go to Commons, Opus or the Diner. If you keep your ear open as you walk that oh-so-awkward walk from the back door of Commons to the beverage stations, chances are you will hear one group of friends or another complaining about something at Hamilton.

"The Jitney sucks!"

"That walk up the Bundy Hill is horrible. We should install an elevator!"

"God, Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down is AMAZING." (Er, sorry, that is not a complaint, just something we notice people talking about a lot in Commons).

Anyway, you know the complaints; we are sure you have made them yourself. But how many of you have voted for your SA representative? And for those who have voted, how many of you actually know what each candidate stood for, or did you just choose the top person on the ballot?

Here is the bottom line: decisions are made by those who show up. Hamilton, as a college and as a body of amazing administrators and faculty, listens when we speak.

Please take this opportunity to read what each candidate stands for, discuss this with your friends and vote! Please?

-The Spectator

THE SPECTATOR

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Face Off: A Better Economy-Does Obama Know?

No

by Liz Farrington '10
Insights and Ideas Writer

It is a truism in contemporary American politics that the economy has a crucial effect on the election or reelection of our president.

However, the president does not possess the influence over the nation's economic development that he is often credited with; his importance is often surpassed by that of Congress and the Federal Reserve Bank, which controls the money supply and interest rates. His appointments are critical to the latter but do not imply control, and in fact our economy appears to move in cycles which transcend the regular shifts of partisan policy in the White House.

The relationship between what Thomas Carlyle called "the dismal science" and politics is therefore unclear, obscured by popular misconception and the sweeping rhetoric of candidates who vie for the presidency.

This rhetoric can also be the greatest weapon the president has in altering the economy, however, he may affect more with personality than policy: if he represents a positive viewpoint and inspires consumer confidence, he dramatically increases his impact due to the import of consumer buying patterns. Fear and distrust in the government detracts greatly from the material success of the nation. In his first inaugural address, Franklin Roosevelt said that helping the people to surmount their fear was "essential to victory" over economic forces.

Economist Phil Gramm referred to this phenomenon as a "mental recession"—the economic forces currently at play do not necessarily suggest depressed circumstances (the initially-estimated 1.9% growth rate in the second quarter was actually a healthy 3.3%), but consumer confidence remains low. This may be contributable in part to the low popularity of President Bush and the calculated manipulations of economic hardships that almost inevitably precede an election.

Keeping this in mind, and not overestimating the effect of the executive branch on the typical American's experience with the economy, there are philosophical implications for differing economic policies. Taxation, for example, is acceptable because it grants a government the means to maintain itself.

But when taxation develops into a method for the redistribution of wealth, it insidiously alters the structure of our nation with misleading offers of "free" services and restrictions on our liberties. As Barry Goldwater writes, "Property and freedom are inseparable: to the extent government takes the one in the form of taxes, it intrudes on the other."

This abstract principle of personal freedom is certainly at the heart of conservative policy toward economics, and taxation in particular, but more grounded motivations do exist.

Interestingly enough, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama acknowledged these earlier this week in altering his proposed economic plan. According to the Associated Press, "Obama says he would delay rescinding President Bush's tax cuts on wealthy Americans if he becomes the next president and the economy is in a recession, suggesting such an increase would further hurt the economy." If Obama believes lower taxes to be essential in times of economic hardship, his policy in greater prosperity seems counter-intuitive.

Prior to this announcement, Obama's plan called for the highest progressive tax rates in almost a decade. If the country remains in its current economic state, which Obama does term a "recession," and the Democrat becomes president, his decision to keep the Bush tax cuts temporarily in place would coexist with the $300 million in spending his plan already proposes.

Intentional deficit spending in these circumstances could easily result, among other things, in inflation and higher interest rates—perhaps proving that the president's policies can have a non-negligible impact on the economy after all.

Yes

by Will Leubsdorf '10
Insights and Ideas Writer

Looking at the American economy nowadays makes No Country For Old Men seem like a feel-good comedy. The unemployment rate in August rose for the eighth consecutive month, increasing to its highest level in five years. The housing market continues to collapse. Nearly 700,000 Americans have already lost their homes to foreclosure, a number that will increase to over a million by the end of the year.

9% of homeowners with mortgages were either behind on their payments or in foreclosure. Many homeowners have negative equity. As many homeowners' wealth is tied to the price of their house, this has the effect of restricting consumer spending, and furthering the downward economic spiral.

The credit market is also in shoddy shape thanks to disastrous sub-prime lending practices. The banks that gave big loans to clients who were unable to pay off the loans lost millions of dollars. The federal government has been forced to bail out numerous financial institutions in an attempt to keep the credit market from totally collapsing, most recently Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which the government took over this week.

While the economy grew 3% last quarter, that is not an indicator of an improving economic situation. That minor growth is reflecting the brief impact of the economic stimulus package Congress passed earlier this year, which will wear off before the end of the year.

Our current economic turmoil has one source: the failed economic policies of President Bush. The current administration has rapidly deregulated American businesses, especially the credit industry, giving them free license to engage in the risky types of behavior that caused the credit and housing crises. The American economy has not been as deregulated as it is now since the Great Depression, so it is not too surprising that as a result we are going through the biggest credit crisis and more banks have closed in the last year since the Depression as well.

The Bush tax cuts have both caused massive increase in the deficit and deepened the widening income inequality between the poorest and wealthiest Americans. The median household income over the past eight years has dropped, while the poverty rate and number of Americans without health insurance has increased.

While the American economy did well through 2007, the American people did not. The majority of that economic largess went largely to corporate profits and the salaries of the wealthiest Americans.

John McCain's economic policies would perpetuate these failed policies. McCain actively pushed deregulation during his long tenure as chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee at the behest of lobbyists, who now staff his campaign. McCain proposes more of the same while giving more tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and to corporations. His plan offers practically no tax relief to the middle class.

This would worsen the economic problems created by the Bush Administration, continuing rather than correcting its errors. McCain's illogical approach to economics is not surprising as McCain, despite his 26 years in Congress, has admitted on many occasions that "the issue of economics is not something I've understood as well as I should." McCain's economic policies would do nothing to alleviate the economic suffering of the majority of Americans.

Barack Obama's economic plan offers real solutions to reverse the damage to the economy. Obama's plan would give tax cuts to 95% of Americans, increasing their spending power and pumping more money into the economy. He would focus on investment in green energy sources, providing jobs and reducing American dependence on foreign oil. This is in sharp contrast with John McCain, who despite his rhetoric about an "all of the above" energy plan, has repeatedly voted against investment in alternate energy solutions that provide domestic jobs, like ethanol.

Obama will stop giving tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas and work to make our free-trade agreements include protections for the environment and workers. This is not ending free trade; its enhancing it by making sure that our foreign trade is fair to all parties involved.

This election offers a clear choice on economic policies. John McCain offers more of the same failed policies, while Barack Obama offers real change.

Cartoon by Joe Kazacos '10
Staff Cartoonist

Everyone has an opinion.

Share yours.

E-mail us at specii@hamilton.edu to write for Insights and Ideas.

The Candidates You Don't Know: McKinney & Barr

by Kate Tummarello '11
Insights and Ideas Editor

Often, when looking to choose a presidential candidate, many voters feel as though they must choose between the lesser of two evils. Of course, it is rare that you will agree with absolutely everything a candidate says, but what happens if you disagree with everything both candidates say?

If you can't force yourself to agree with the majority of what John McCain or Barack Obama say, you can always look to the other candidates. And yes, there are other candidates.

One such candidate is Bob Barr, who is running as a member of the Libertarian Party. This former representative of the Seventh district of Georgia had the slogan "Liberty for America." Barr and his running mate Wayne Allyn Root want what any good libertarian wants: as little government interference as possible. Barr claims that the system of check and balances that should be in place in our government is failing and needs to be restored.

Another candidate is Cynthia McKinney, who is running as a member of the Green Party. She was the first African American congresswoman. That's right; she's an African American woman. Better yet, her running mate is community organizer/journalist/hip-hop activist Rosa Clemente. The Green Party seems to understand the reasoning behind this election, dealing with both the issue of gender and the issue of race. Even Obama and McCain cannot handle that.

"If you can't force yourself to agree with the majority of what John McCain or Barack Obama say, you can always look to the other candidates."

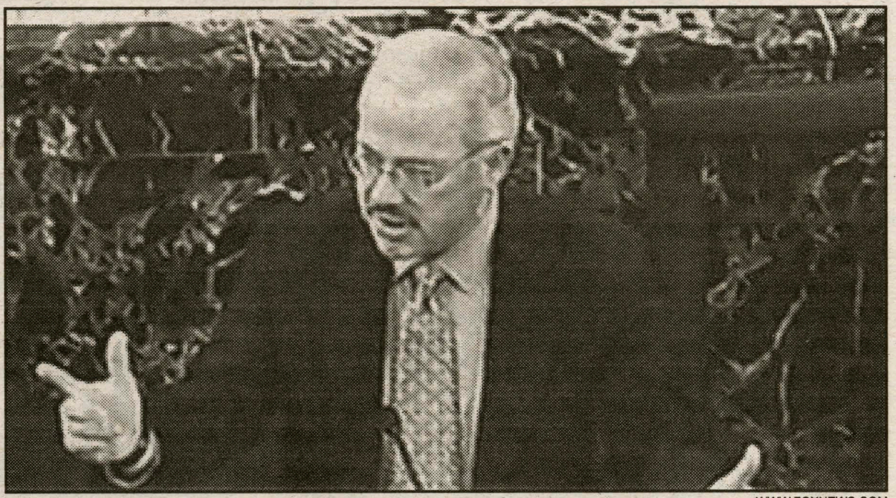
Now you are probably thinking that voting for either Barr or McKinney is a mistake since neither will probably win. Well, there is a good chance that neither of them will win, but they are not necessarily only running to win. Barr told the National Review Online that if even if he loses the election, he will "have moved that agenda forward, have raised the level of debate and have caused the American people to recognize that there really is a choice there."

When you say "I am voting for (Insert name other than McCain or Obama here)" you are telling the government that you support ideas that do not belong to either of the Democratic or Republican parties. You are telling the government that the little guy has your support. You are telling the government that it needs to listen to someone other than the two main candidates.

If you have already made up your mind to vote for Obama or McCain, then so be it. But if you feel like neither of them is the right candidate for you, consider others. Supporting something is better than supporting nothing at all.

WWW.YELLOWCAKEWALK.NET

Cynthia McKinney, former representative of the Seventh district of Georgia is running as the Green Party candidate for president.



WWW.FOXNEWS.COM

Bob Barr, former representative of the Seventh district of Georgia is running as the Libertarian candidate for president.

Thumbs up

Shakespeare in the Graveyard: I am sure that some of the alumni buried there are irked that the graveyard is being used for theater, not scaring the $h*t out of pledges.

The Kooks: Too bad it was hotter than a southern courtroom in there.

The New KJ water "feature": How many scholarships did that cost?

Monday night football at the pub: 6 foot subs, chips, salsa, and $1 Keystones. Awesome! There goes my last day of sobriety and chance for a meaningful existence!

Thumbs down

Freshman at Pub Lunch: If you don't stop coming, I am going to snatch one of you up in a bear trap, peel off your hide, and wear it to lunch as a warning to your comrades.

Girl Talk at Colgate: You may be smarter than us, but our stage held up Aretha Franklin and yours couldn't hold up a skinny hipster.

Study abroad application: The same process that I went through 3 years ago, only this time it's to get the f#@k away from here.

The new Hill Cards don't allow access to buildings after 11 o'clock... but most freshman girls aren't unconscious before then!

Who Cares?

Tom Brady shatters his ACL. Oh no! He's going to spend the rest of the year being nursed back to health by Gisele Bundchen... Seriously, f#@k you Tom Brady.

School. That's it, I'm becoming a poster gypsy, traveling from campus to campus, selling prints of Monet sunsets to brohams looking to get their d's wet.

40 teams at Trivia Night: I could hardly hear myself think up the wrong answers to 80% of the questions.

by Steve Allinger '09
& Anthony DelConte '10

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BURN AFTER READING — GEORGE CLOONEY-BRAD PITT — STADIUM SEATING
●1:00●3:00-5:10-7:20▲9:30 DTS R

ROBERT DENIRO - ALPACINO — STADIUM SEATING
RIGHTEOUS KILL
●1:05●3:05-5:15-7:30▲9:45 DTS R

THE WOMEN — MEG RYAN - ANNETTE BENING EVA MENDES DTS PG-13
●2:10-4:40-7:10▲9:25

SCARLETT JOHANSSON - PENELOPE CRUZ - JAVIER BARDEM IN WOODY ALLEN'S
Vicky Cristina Barcelona
●1:20●3:25-5:25-7:40▲9:50 PG-13

MAMMA MIA ●2:50-7:05▲9:20 PG-13

HAMLET 2 STEVE COOGAN 5:00▲10:00 R

HOUSE BUNNY ●2:20-4:30-6:50▲9:00 PG-13

TROPIC THUNDER — BEN STILLER
●1:00●3:15-5:30-7:50▲10:10 DTS R

KUNG FU PANDA ●12:55-5:05 PG

BANGKOK DANGEROUS — #1 MOVIE
●1:30●3:40-5:50-8:00▲10:05 NICOLAS CAGE R

THE DARK KNIGHT ●2:00-7:00 PG-13

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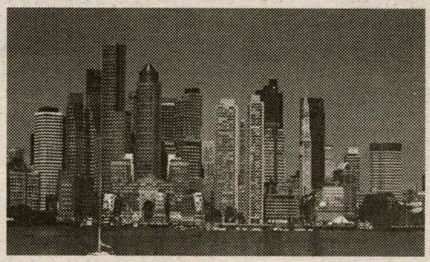
The Career Center

Eastern College Career Day

Boston



Interviews will be in Boston on Friday, November 7

Application Deadline: Friday, October 2

Who: Seniors from the following nine schools participate in ECCD-Boston: Amherst, Bowdoin, Colgate, Hamilton, Middlebury, Skidmore, St. Lawrence, Wesleyan, and Williams.

How: Apply through the ECCD website at ***http://eccdb.erecruiting.com/er/security/login.jsp***.

*Employers will select candidates based solely on application materials (cover letters, resumes, etc.).

*Prepare your materials; meet with a peer counselor or professional staff member for help.

*Customize your cover letters for each opportunity (you may apply to up to 13 opportunities).

*Practice your interview skills. Attend an interview workshop; even better, schedule a mock interview!

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Where: Meet in the Events Barn to be transported to a volunteer location
Why: volunteer, experience the area, meet new people and solidify friendships, ***Make a Difference in Yourself and Your Community***

DO YOU NEED SOME "FOREIGN EXPOSURE?"

Planning to study abroad? Talk to students who have been there!

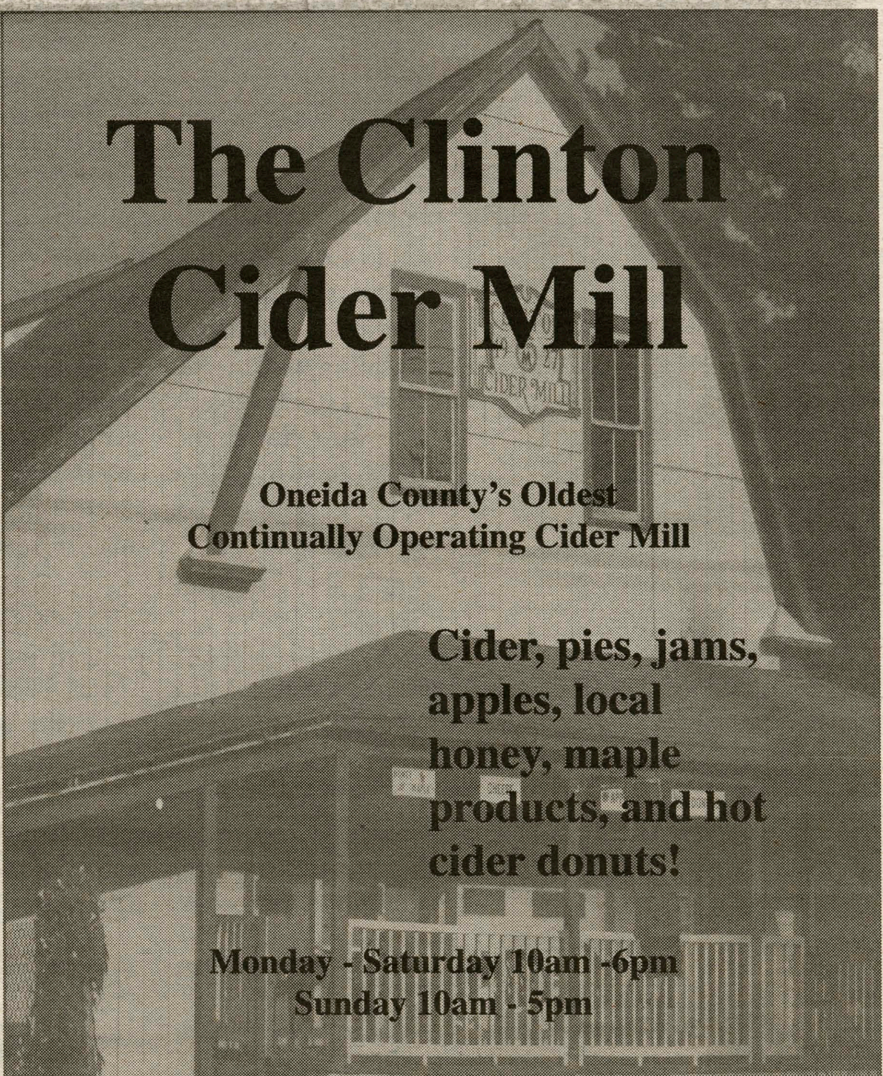
Come to FOREIGN EXPOSURE'S drop-in coffee hours Sundays in KJ COMMONS 2ND FLOOR from 8-9pm

SEPTEMBER 14: INDIA AND NEPAL!
SEPTEMBER 21: CHINA!

STOP BY! ASK QUESTIONS! TAKE A STUDY BREAK! GET A COUPON FOR OPUS GOODIES!

Already been or from there? Stop by, too, and reminisce!

Look for the rest of the semester's schedule soon!



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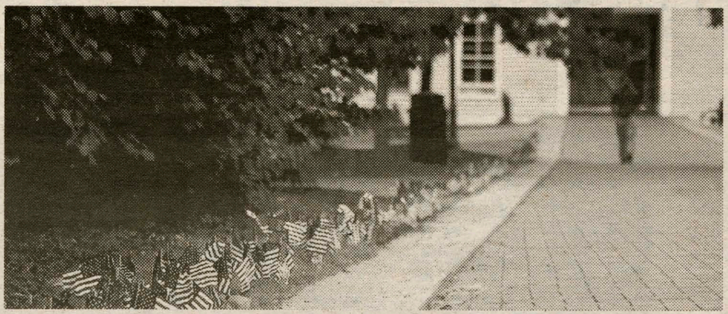


PHOTO BY LEAH KOREN '12

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Above: Jeff McArn leads a candle light vigil on campus. Below: The living room of the Wheelwright's apartment, over a week later, when they were finally allowed to return home.

Above: The Hamilton College Republicans and Democrates put their differences aside for the day to place 3,000 flags along Martin's Way Below: A southward view from the the bank of the Hudson River of the collapse of North Tower.

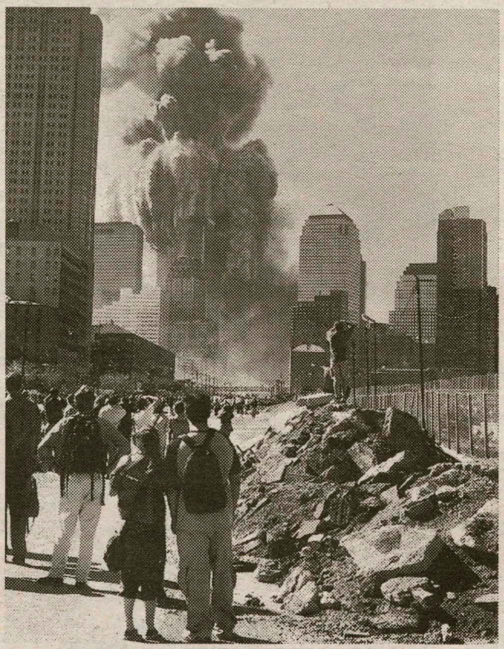


PHOTO CURTESY OF MARTIN CONNER '09

PHOTO CURTESY OF MATT WHEELWRIGHT '11

"At the time I was in school right across the river in Brooklyn. All of a sudden, a teacher came in and told us all to go to the basement . But of course once I had heard that the towers had been hit, I immediately thought of my home and my family, which preside right across the street from the towers. You would look out our window towards them and you would not be able to see the top unless you stuck your head all the way out of the window.

"[My family] remained in my house until after the second plane hit and then they knew that they had to get out of there. We did know people who stayed in our building until after both collapsed. They locked themselves in their bathrooms and were lucky; the building next door [was] destroyed by falling debris. Since they closed the bridges in the city, I was not able to see my parents until the next day.

"In the weeks following we eagerly watched the news to find out if our building was still standing. It was September 21 (2001) when we were finally able to get a police escort to our house and see the damage with our own eyes. All the windows were blown in. Dust and debris lay everywhere with a coating of random office papers and files. All the businesses

"All the businesses in the towers blew right into our living room."

in the towers blew right into our living room. The smell of that day, whether it [was the smell of] burning building or asbestos, still lingers in closets in my apartment. I still have access to piles of dust that were created by that day."

Matt Wheelwright Class of 2011

"On 9/11 in 2001 I was living with my family in England, on an academic exchange at Oxford University. We watched the twin towers fall on BBC television... In the months that followed, we were overwhelmed by the sympathy for the United States we encountered everywhere we traveled in England. As soon as people learned we were Americans, they would come over to shake hands, relate an anecdote about American friends or an American visit, or (among the older people) share memories of the Yanks they knew during World War II...The affection shown Americans in Europe was warm, spontaneous, and very moving. Too bad so much of that goodwill has been squandered in the years since."

Maurice Isserman, Professor of History

"On 9/11, I was in my office in the basement of Burke Library when I heard a commotion in the hallway. People were watching the live broadcast from ground zero on CNN right after the first plane hit the towers. I remember having a feeling of total disbelief and shock as the second plane hit and the towers collapsed.

"A couple of months later I was on a scheduled visit to New York City [where] I visited with Professor Henry Rutz, who was overseeing the Hamilton program in NYC and the two of us walked to Ground Zero in the evening. I particularly remember the grounds of St. Paul's Chapel, which was completely littered with debris from the fallen towers... Watching all the workers among the smoldering debris I could only think that the world would never quite be the same again."

David Smallen, Vice President of Information Technology

The Hours You Can Never Remember

Cut these out; no matter how long you've been here you always forget when you need them

Commons

Breakfast Mon - Sun	7 30am – 10am
Lunch Monday –Fri	11am – 2pm
Snack Mon – Fri	2pm – 4pm
Dinner Mon – Sun	5pm – 8pm
Brunch Sat/Sun	11am – 2pm

McEwen (all hours are Mon-Fri)

Breakfast	7 30am – 10am
Lunch	11am – 2 30pm
Dinner	4 30pm – 8pm

Diner

Mon - Fri	9am – midnight
Sat	3pm – midnight
Sun	3pm - midnight
LATE NIGHT! (Th – Sat)	midnight – 5am

Fitness Center

Mon/Wed/Fri	6am – 10 30pm
Tue/Th	8am – 10 30pm
Sat – Sun	10am – 9pm

Farmhouse

Open 24 hours with invitation only

Graveyard

24 Hours.. enter at your own risk

Library

Mon – Th	8 – 2am
Friday	8am – midnight
Saturday	10am – midnight
Sunday	10am – 2am

Mail Center

Stamp Window	10am – 4pm
Package Window	10am – 4 30pm

Bookstore

Mon-Sat	10am – 6pm
Sunday	10am – 2pm

Opus 1 & Opus 2

Mon-Th	8 30am – 4pm; 7pm – 11 30pm
Friday	8 30am – 4pm
Sunday	7 30 – 11 30pm

Registrar

Mon – Fri	8 30am – 4 30pm

Health Center

Mon/Tue/Th/Fri	8 30am – 12 30pm
	1 30pm – 4 30pm
Wednesday	10am – 12 30pm
	1 30pm – 4 30pm
Saturday	12pm – 4pm

Writing Center

Mon –Th	10am – 11pm
Fri	10am – 2pm
Sun	1pm – 11pm

(open after hours for computer use)

Q Lit Center

Mon – Th	2pm – 6pm
Sun – Th	7pm – 9pm
Sunday	2pm – 4pm

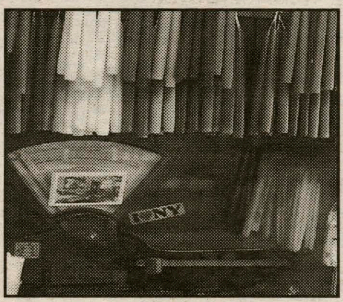
Music Library

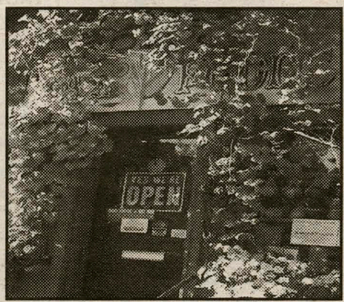
Mon – Th	9 30am – 11 30pm
Friday	9 30am – 4 30pm
Saturday	12 – 5pm
Sunday	12 – 11pm

Media Library

Mon –Th	8 30am – 10pm
Friday	8 30am – 4 30pm
Saturday	12 – 5pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Worth Getting Off the Hill For: Tom's Natural Foods





PHOTOS BY CHRIS EATON '11

By Lily Gillespie '12
Features Writer

If you weren't looking for it, you might miss Tom's Natural Foods in downtown Clinton, with its unassuming, ivory-covered façade. However, it is well worth the trip. To step into Tom's is somewhat like stepping into a time warp, for it is best likened to what one would expect the general store in Little House on the Prairie to resemble. There weren't any bolts of fabric or children's toys at Tom's, but I would imagine the feel of a small local store run by a gracious and all-knowing gentleman would be about the same.

The first thing I noticed when I entered the store was the rows upon rows of spices in every variety stored in large glass jars, allowing customers to pick and choose how much they need. Even more nostalgic were the shelves of wooden barrels filled with everything from flour to rice to wheat to dried fruit and virtually every kind of nut you could imagine. I myself picked up some of the delicious sulphured apricots.

In back is the meat counter where those who do not have their own dining services could pick up beautiful cuts of meat, all of which are organic. Organic is a theme at Tom's, and there are very few pre-packaged, name-brand items. Tom Bell, the store's owner and namesake, sells local, organic fruits and vegetables he has picked up from farmers in the area. I purchased some of his frozen, organic blueberries, which were as delicious post-thaw as they would have been fresh off the farm.

Tom also recognizes many of the dietary issues facing his customers, and therefore uses organic soymilk, almond milk or apple juice in his smoothies. In addtion, the store carries more dietary supplements than one could possibly imagine and for every variety of needs.

Organic and natural foods have been virtually a lifelong interest for Tom, who was first attracted to the idea of a natural foods store at the early age of 18, after visiting just such an establishment in Oswego. When I asked Tom what his favorite part of running his store is he replied, without hesitation, that it was the customers and the "cross-section of people" he sees in his store. I saw this firsthand: he was equally warm with the customer for whom he had specially ordered something as he was with the biker, covered in dirt, who stopped in on his way to pick up a snack. It's also about a love of food. When asked what his favorite product was in the store he was quick to name chocolate, not only for its obvious charming qualities, but, as an owner of a natural foods store would point out, because it's high in antioxidants. Tom's Natural Foods, a different and charming take on the natural foods business, is absolutely worth getting off The Hill for.

Tom's hours:
Mon-Fri 10-6
Sat. 10-5
Sundays Closed

From Where I Sit
Hamilton's International Perspectives

By Allison Eck '12
Features Writer

To a foreign student here at Hamilton, a college campus is like a rampant microcosm – the ideals, customs, mannerisms, and language thriving on the quad may seem representative of Americans as a whole. But what do foreign students really think of life at a typical American liberal-arts college? Is the culture shock too much to handle? Or have the first few weeks as a Hamilton freshman in an exotic and unfamiliar country been enjoyable? I talked to one member of the class of 2012 about his first impressions, Raul Patrascu.

What country are you from?

I am from a medium-sized country in Eastern Europe called Romania.

How do you feel about the language and cultural barrier? How easy or hard is it to communicate with other students? Was it a difficult transition?

I love English, and I've been speaking it since I was very young. I've also lived in the US before, so it is easy to communicate with other students. Going to college in a different country has definitely broadened my horizons – it's made me more mature and opened my eyes in a way that is very hard to describe. I think the most difficult transition was getting used to being very far from home.

What is a quirky American custom that you find funny?

Long shorts! In Europe everyone wears short shorts, but here it appears to be the fashion to wear long shorts.

How do you think American food compares to Romanian food?

American food is better tasting but more fattening. I love hamburgers! Yeah, so stereotypical…

How do American teens socialize differently from Romanian teens?

The concept of friendship is very much different here than in Europe. It's somehow a lot shallower, especially in the beginning. People are much more generous in Romania, and invest more trust and time in friendship.

What clubs do you intend to join?

Emerson Literary Society, International Student Association, and intramural soccer…for now.

What are people typically concerned with in Romania in regards to current events or social issues?

We are concerned with similar world issues, and we care just as much. The independence of that country in Serbia I think is

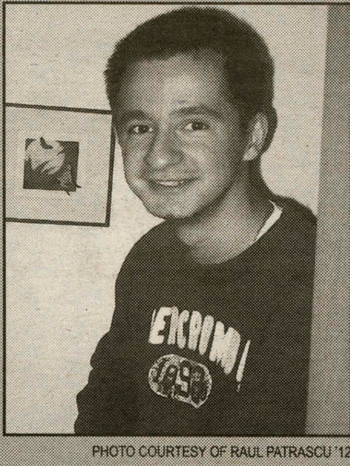


PHOTO COURTESY OF RAUL PATRASCU '12

Raul Patrascu '12 is an international student from Romania.

one of those issues. Terrorism was second, although on a much smaller scale. Romania also had troops in Iraq and has American military bases inside the country. Romania is pro-US.

What American stereotypes have proven to be false or true?

WWW.GOOGLE.

WWW.GOOGLE.COM

> **"One quirky American custom? Long shorts! In Europe everyone wears short shorts, but here it appears to be the fashion to wear long shorts."**

There are not that many stereotypes in general, but I knew about the "work-extremely-hard" type of people, and I found quite a few of them at Hamilton.

I've heard you intend to study pre-med. What inspired you to do this and is there anything that intrigues you about the American medical system?

I've always wanted to be a doctor since I was a kid. I've always wanted to be a doctor because I like helping people, I always did, and because it is just something I really like - human anatomy and physiology. I've been dreaming of this since I was a kid and was giving people mock prescriptions. Plus, the academic legend behind the American medical schools is that they're the best in the world.

What other countries have you been to?

I've been to Serbia, Hungary, and Austria.

Who is your favorite Romanian gymnast to watch on the Olympics?

This girl named Alina Dumitru; she plays judo. I like Alina Dumitru because she is the illustration of hard-work and desire. My favorite gymnast is Nadia Comaneci, of course.

Why did you come to Hamilton?

Academic quality, superb faculty which is always incredibly supportive and eager to help, and of course, the awesome campus with its family atmosphere. There is that beautiful feeling that I get when I see that all the people around me – especially my advisor and the faculty – are eager to help and push me to strive to achieve my goals. I'm just very grateful for this wonderful opportunity to be here. Hamilton provides everything one would ever need or dream of…so the rest is up to us.

"From Where I sit" is the ESOL column that resents the nonnative English Speaker's point of view on his or her experience American. If you have a "From Where I Sit" story that you would like to share, please e-mail adragan.

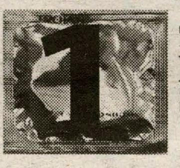
Spectator Between the Sheets

Four Condom Commandments

By Annabelle Moore '12
Features Columnist

Last week I wrote about Plan B, but now I think I was getting ahead of myself. I really should have been helping you save the $22 (we are college students, after all), and been promoting proper condom use. Anyone who has taken a comprehensive sex education course knows that condoms are 98% effective when used correctly, but only 85% effective with typical use. What few teachers fail to say, emphasize and/or repeat, is what "correctly" means, and that one simple word may lead you or your partner to seek out Plan B, STD testing, and pregnancy testing.

I am about to say what most sex-education teachers would kill to say: condoms are bad-ass. They prevent unwanted pregnancies and protect against almost all STDs. Herpes, for example, can still be transmitted. Condoms are cheap, easy to come by, they are discreet and they come in an array of colors, shapes and styles. Without proper handling, however, a lot of the inherent "bad-assness" of condoms is lost. I bestow upon you four condom commandments that, if followed, will keep your male condoms at that 98% efficacy rate:



Thou Shall Not Be Stingy.

Reliable brands, like Durex, LifeStyles, and Trojans, are said to be safer. Also, if you plan on using lubricant either buy lubricated condoms or a water-based lubricant. Oil-based lubricants, like Vaseline, wear away at the latex, making condoms thinner and more likely to tear. Some water-based lubricants are KY, Astroglide, Probe and Wet.

Handle Unto Them With Care.

Do not keep condoms in a warm place. This can include, but is not limited to, wallets, glove compartments and microwaves. Check the expiration date printed on the back of each condom. Make sure they are not damaged when you use them—squeeze the middle of the package to feel for the air bubble inside. If the condom is flat and airless there could be a hole poked in the condom (a nasty but not uncommon prank.) Also, although we can all agree that it is sexy, do not open a condom with your teeth. You can easily tear the latex.

Adorn Thyself Properly.

During your typical Health class, this is when the teacher would pull out the banana or, if you were *really* lucky, the plastic penis model. This is often so amusing that the essentials of the lesson are quickly forgotten, so pay attention. Only put a condom on an erect penis. First, begin to unroll the condom onto two fingers. One unroll will help to show you if you're unrolling it the right way. Next, pinch the tip of the condom that looks like a little pouch. This is what holds the ejaculate and so should be as airtight as you can make it. Continue by holding the condom tip with one hand and rolling the condom down the length of the penis with the other. Smooth out any air bubbles. Once it has reached the base of the penis give the tip of the condom another pinch to double check.

Thou Shall Not Lie In Your Lovers Arms Right After.

This one important rule is often forgotten but can easily lead to pregnancy/STDs. Right after the guy ejaculates withdraw the penis while holding the base of the condom to the base of the penis and dispose of the condom. If the penis goes soft the condom can slip off inside of you or your partner. Once you've removed the condom and disposed of it, then you can cuddle all you want (or until you have to go to class.)

These rules are for male condoms, not female condoms (which are designed to be worn inside the vagina.) If you or your partner prefers female condoms, read more about them at avert.org/femcond.htm. Male condoms are available at the Health Center on a table by the window for free. Most R.A.'s have condoms in their room, and you can always pick up a pack at CVS or any gas station. Also, not all condoms fit everyone perfectly. Guys – try different kinds and see what's most comfortable for you. Condoms are still not guaranteed to be 100% effective, but if you follow these rules they will be pretty damn close. Good luck and happy humpin'!

Annabelle Moore '12 worked as a trained Peer Health Educator at NARAL New York for the past two years, and has interned at Planned Parenthood and SIECUS. She is also in a long-distance relationship and would therefore love to live vicariously through you! Contact her at acmoore with any questions, concerns or stories.

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Weekly Charts

by Jacob Murray '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

MUSIC
(From iTunes)

Top Albums
1. Simple Times - Joshua Rodin
2. Do You Know - Jessica Simpson
3. Do You Believe In Gosh? - Mitch Hedburg
4. In Valleys - Jack's Mannequin
5. The Quilt - Gym Class Heroes

Top Songs
1. So What - Pink
2. Swagga Like Us - Jay-Z & T.I.
3. Whatever You Like - T.I.
4. Disturbia - Rihanna
5. I Don't Care - Fall Out Boy

MOVIES
(Yahoo! Movies)
1. Bangkok Dangerous
2. Tropic Thunder
3. The Dark Knight
4. The House Bunny
5. Traitor
6. Babylon A.D.
7. Death Race
8. Disaster Movie
9. Mamma Mia!
10. Pineapple Express

BOOKS
(From The New York Times Best Seller List)

Paperback Fiction
1. THE SHACK, by William P. Young
2. THE CHOICE, by Nicholas Sparks
3. BAREFOOT, by Elin Hilderbrand
4. WATER FOR ELEPHANTS, by Sara Gruen
5. THE ALCHEMIST, by Paulo Coelho

Paperback Non-Fiction
1. THREE CUPS OF TEA, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
2. EAT, PRAY, LOVE, by Elizabeth Gilbert
3. MIKE'S ELECTION GUIDE - Michael Moore
4. THE AUDACITY OF HOPE - Barack Obama
5. A LONG WAY GONE, by Ishmael Beah

Girl Talk Debacle at Colgate University

by Rachel Pohl '11
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Colgate University was the place to be this past Friday night as famous musician Greg Gillis, better known as Girl Talk, ventured to Hamilton, New York for one of Colgate's biggest concert events of the year. The concert was held outside on Colgate's quad, where hundreds of students from Hamilton, Colgate, and Cornell experienced a night of grave disappointment.

Most reviews of the show were dismal; Hamilton students were particularly surprised by Colgate's poor management of the venue and event in general. The crowd was visibly upset when disaster struck and the makeshift "stage," crowded by students and Gillis, collapsed. The flimsy stage, made of only a couple of tables, caused equipment failure and a shortened show. Those who had seen Girl Talk perform before were disappointed. "I was upset with how the show was run. It started late, campus safety kept stopping Girl Talk because of problems with the stage, and then the stage broke. The Colgate show didn't have the same flow or energy as the one I went to in Pittsburgh because of the constant interruptions," said Kate Northway, a sophomore. The audience had to wait for over an hour for Girl Talk to play; only 45 minutes of solid play time did not seem worth the trip to Colgate. His shows are notorious for big crowds, a wild dance party on stage, aerobics on stage, and spontaneous clothing removal by Greg Gillis. By the end of a Girl Talk show, Gillis is usually left in only his boxers, however, Gillis left Colgate almost completely clothed. Getting to dance on stage is a huge selling point of Girl Talk concerts, but many students were not able to get on the stage; for those who did, their dancing time was short lived. While some still enjoyed the night for the dancing, the upbeat concert atmosphere, and the invasion of our rival school Colgate, most were let down.

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The "venue" disappointed many Hamilton students, as well as Gillis.

Gillis started making music in 2000 while studying in Case Western Reserve University's biomedical engineering program; despite training to become an engineer, Gillis eventually quit to focus on music. He has labels with Illegal Art, 12 Apostles, 333 recordings, and SSS Records. The 26-year old currently lives in Pittsburgh, but because of a packed tour schedule is barely at home. Popular among the college crowd, Girl Talk has visited hundreds of other college campuses, and, unfortunately for Hamilton students and him, probably can count the Colgate show among his worst ever.

Upcoming Events at Hamilton College

Activist Bill Talen and the Church of Stop Shopping

The Hamilton College Performing Arts opens the 2008-09 Contemporary Voices and Visions Series with "Billy Talen and the Church of Stop Shopping" on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 8:00 p.m. in Wellin Hall.

Activist Bill Talen is an artist who, as his alter ego "Reverend Billy," leads the Church of Stop Shopping, an anti-consumerism performance group that encourages Americans to abandon the consumer culture that they contend has overtaken our society.

Performing with a gospel choir and live band under the persona of a revivalist street preacher, Talen ("Reverend Billy") exhorts consumers to be conscious of large corporations and mass media. His performances often focus on refusing products produced in sweatshops and the broader message of economic justice and environmental protection.

In 1997, Talen, a Minnesota-born actor who had moved to New York from San Francisco three years earlier, began appearing as Reverend Billy on street corners in Times Square, near the recently opened Disney Store. Times Square had recently begun its transformation from a seedy but lively center of small-time and sometimes illicit commerce – and also of New York theater – to a more gentrified and tourist-friendly venue for large companies like Disney and big-budget productions like *The Lion King*. Whereas other street preachers chose Times Square because of its reputation for sin, Reverend Billy's sermons focused on the evils of consumerism and advertising – represented especially by Disney and Mickey Mouse – and on what Talen saw as the loss of neighborhood spirit and cultural authenticity in Rudolph Guiliani's New York.

Talen's chief collaborator in developing the Reverend Billy character was the Reverend Sidney Lanier. A cousin of Tennessee Williams with an interest in avant-garde theatre, Lanier was then the vicar of St. Clement's, an Episcopal church in Hell's Kitchen that doubled as a theatrical space, where Talen was working as house manager. Lanier encouraged Talen, who was suspicious of religious figures after rejecting the conservative Protestantism of his youth, to study radical theologians and performers. Of these, Talen credits Elaine Pagels and Lenny Bruce as particularly strong influences. Though Talen does not call himself a Christian, he says that Reverend Billy is not a parody of a preacher, but a real preacher; he describes his church's spiritual message as "Put the odd back in God."

After beginning as a solo performer, Reverend Billy soon acquired a loose organization that assisted in his in-store actions. These were originally centered at the Disney store. In one early action, Talen and his associates pretended to be shopping at the store and talking on non-functional cell phones, carrying on increasingly loud conversations about the evils of Disney and its products; once the ruse was discovered, Reverend Billy began preaching to the actual consumers until police removed him from the store. The Starbucks coffeehouse chain became another frequent target of the Church's actions due to its displacement of local small businesses, its labor practices, and its role in creating what Talen calls "fake Bohemia.".

Tickets for Rev. Billy and The Church of Stop Shopping are $15 for adults, $10 for seniors, and $5 for students. For more information or to buy tickets, call the box office at 859-4331 or visit www.hamiltonpa.org.

Mark Kellogg to perform on September 14

Hamilton College Department of Music will present a free recital for trombone and euphonium by Mark Kellogg, accompanied by Joseph Werner, piano, on Sunday, September 14 at 3 p.m. in Wellin Hall on the Hamilton College campus.

Mark Kellogg is currently the principal trombone of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He is also associate professor of trombone, euphonium, and brass chamber music at the Eastman School of Music. An active performer, he has embraced a wide variety of performing roles, from jazz soloist to chamber musician to orchestral performer.

The concert will feature a variety of music for trombone, euphonium and piano from the 19th century to contemporary pieces including a selection composed by Jeff Tyzik, Principal Pops Conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Accompanist Joseph Werner is principal keyboard and personnel manager for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and co-artistic director for the Society for Chamber Music in Rochester. An active recitalist and orchestral soloist, he has performed with the RPO in concerto repertoire ranging from Bach to Barber. One of the busiest collaborative pianists in Rochester, he performs regularly with a host of Eastman School of Music Artist Faculty members and RPO soloists. He has recorded on the Columbia, Vanguard, NEXUS, Musical Heritage Society and Naxos labels. He also teaches piano and chamber music at the Hochstein Music School.

This concert is free and open to the public. All seating is general admission. For more information, call the box office at 859-4331.

LETTUCE HEAD

PRESENTED BY JOE KAZACOS '10 AND JOSHUA HICKS '09

Crank

How would your life change if you knew, definitively, that you only had one year to live? One day? How about one hour? For Chev Chelios, the latter becomes reality when he wakes up groggy and with chest pains. Poisoned with a Chinese synthetic, Chev, a hit man for an LA syndicate, has only one chance and one hour to exact his revenge on the rival mob. To prevent the poison from killing him, he has to keep adrenaline pumping through his body. For anyone who has seen any Jason Statham movies, it should come as no surprise that the methods he chooses to keep his heart pumping involve over-the-top stunts and obscene acts through the streets of Los Angeles. With an amazing premise, the movie unfortunately does not surpass the category of "mindless action flick." The movie does, however, raise the bar of this genre with feats of cinematography involving car chases, motorcycle crashes, fistfights, psychedelic drug trips, gunfights, and helicopter scenes that will please any action buff earning it 3.8 lettuce heads, so look for it on the channel 54. For those of you who have already seen *Crank*, I'd like to cue you into what will be coming out April 2009: Crank 2: High Voltage, somehow picking up where the first one left off. With Crank as a guilty pleasure of mine, I can't wait.

Christmas!

Two syllables, one word, a thousand images. I'll let you take a moment to think them over. Hmmmmm..... presents, a tree with electric lights, and a jolly white guy in a red suit? I no longer need to paint the picture, because this past Wednesday, Reverend Billy Talen painted the picture for us in a road-trip spectacle crusade with his Church of Stop Shopping. "What Would Jesus Buy?" (starring Sarah Schol '07) is a comic and poignant film that documents the church's trip across the country 30 days before Christmas to encourage people to change their spending habits which are, according to Reverend Billy, destroying not only the Christmas season but the lives of Americans. Believers and non-believers are suffering in debt, while sweatshops continue sending clothes overseas at the expense of mistreated employees. Reverend Billy takes this subject very seriously, claiming large companies like Disney bow to the throne of the "anti-Christ," Mickey Mouse. Reverend Billy along with his electric choir will be performing at Hamilton on Saturday night, so you will get another chance to hear a message that if anything will have you rolling off your seat. For the Michael Moore style directing on a small scale and hilarious interviews I give this film 5 out of 5 Lettuce Heads.

Happy Shopping!

F.I.L.M. Premiere Sept. 14

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

This Sunday September 14 at 2 p.m., a new semester of Forum for Images and Languages in Motion, better known as the F.I.L.M. series, will begin in the KJ Auditorium. "The purpose of the F.I.L.M. Series is to make available to the campus and Central New York community events that demonstrate the breadth and depth of the history of the moving image," says F.I.L.M. programmer and Hamilton professor Scott Macdonald. "We present forms of moving-image experience not available to most people; filmmakers and video-makers who do remarkable work that is otherwise not accessible; and major scholars who are writing the history and theory of film, video, and the other moving-image arts. The goal is to host events that are exciting, interesting, entertaining education for anyone with an interest in the visual arts."

The inaugural event for this semester's F.I.L.M. series will be Terry Borton's "Victorian Halloween and Magic Lantern Show." The Magic Lantern is a 19th century precursor to cinema, and an earlier embodiment of moving image entertainment. Borton, who National Public Radio calls "a national treasure," is the only Magic Lantern performer and scholar in the United States. "Each of our F.I.L.M. Series seasons has begun with an event that reminds us of the early history and/or the pre-history of the movies, and Borton's visit looks to be an unusually exciting kick-off event, one that can entertain a very broad range of people of all ages," Macdonald says. Borton's performance on Sunday will utilize the technology of the 1890s to tell Halloween-themed stories like Poe's The Raven. His live performance will include hilarious songs and animated comedy appropriate for children and adults ages 6 and up.

WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG
F.I.L.M. presents the Magic Lantern next Sunday.

Future events in F.I.L.M. this semester look to be equally as intriguing. Hamilton will host avant-garde filmmaker/performance artists, screenings of documentaries on the Iraq War augmented by the scholarly commentary of an expert, a lecture and screening on sexuality in the American cinema, the return of the famed Alloy Orchestra, and many more exciting events and opportunities to delve deeper into the world of cinema.

Interested in writing for A&E? E-mail jdmurray or jvano with your thoughts!

Tull '92 sponsors Film Challenge

by Dave Sadove '10
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Hamilton students are creative. If you pick up any campus publication on a table in Commons, you are more than likely to find an article that makes you laugh, or a story that inspires. What if you could take a small creative piece and turn it into a summer blockbuster? It might not be as implausible as you think. Thomas Tull '92, founder, chairman and CEO of Legendary Pictures is sponsoring the Legendary Film Treatment Challenge.

Legendary Pictures is known for creating some of the most epic movies in recent memory; *Superman Returns, Batman Begins* and of course, this summer's most successful movie, *The Dark Knight*. Finding ideas for such successful movies as these is certainly no easy task, but current Hamilton students are being offered the chance to have their ideas reviewed by the same creative force behind these films.

Lyndra Vassar '09 interned at Legendary Pictures this summer in Burbank, California. Her experience in working with the Creative Development team is evidence of how ideas from a variety of creative sources are taken seriously. According to Vassar's account of her experience, "On a typical workday with the Creative Development team, I'd read 100+ page scripts, comic books, and graphics novels on which I'd complete "coverage," a two to three page written document stating whether or not the material should be considered by Legendary Pictures for a film." If you have an idea or a story that could make it to the silver screen, this is your opportunity to submit it to the same creative team that reviews submissions by professional screenwriters. Vassar's first hand account of the serious consideration given to all material by the creative team reflects Tull's commitment to seeking innovative ideas, regardless of their source. Tull describes the motivation behind the Film Treatment Challenge: "We are very democratic here about where we get ideas for movies as they can come from anywhere. A member of my team suggested the film treatment challenge – and I thought, Hamilton is a great school with smart people and a theatre department, so why not?"

If you have an idea that evokes excitement like the battle of 300 Spartans against Xerxes, or a character that strikes fear in the hearts of audiences like the Joker in *The Dark Knight*, October 15 is the deadline to possibly share it with the world. Contestants must submit a short three to five page description of a motion picture. A treatment must describe to a producer how a particular story can be adapted to the big screen. While captivating the attention of the producer, it must also include practical details such as directorial style, cost considerations and character development. The document should be brief, but describe enough of the plot to convince a creative team that this is a story worth making into a film.

Submissions must be entered by Wednesday, October 15. Details are available at www.hamilton.edu/film. The Writing Center is an excellent resource for providing assistance. Legendary Film Treatment Challenge finalists will have an opportunity to present to the Legendary Creative Team in February.

Where Are All the Stars in New York City?

WWW.NEWYORKCITYPICS.COM

The New York City skyline is lit up at all hours of day and night; although beautiful, it also produces massive amounts of light pollution.

by Mary Kostakopoulos '09
Science & Technology Writer

Charles Lockwood, author of *Building the Green Way*, claims that the three forms of light pollution (skyglow, light trespass, and glare) infringe upon the daily activities of the majority of Americans. The statistic he gives for those affected by this calamity is 99 percent. Additionally, he claims that light pollution obstructs two-thirds of American homes from seeing the stars. He has investigated the source of the light pollution, and has revealed a high correlation between traffic accidents and over illumination along highways. His assertion that America has "gone night-light crazy" is supported by the adverse affects of this form of pollution. In essence, Lockwood has not only underscored how excess light is not only detrimental to human health, causing sleep disorders, but that it takes its toll on our pockets.

As I lie in my bed, restless, tossing and turning, I contemplate the source of my insomnia. Once my pupils have adjusted, I look around me and see everything aglow. It's the middle of the night and I wonder when I'll fall asleep.

Born and raised in Manhattan, I have grown accustomed to the air pollution, the noise pollution, but the light pollution? Growing up, I didn't even need a night-light in my room. The city street lights sufficed. But now, every time I return from the wilderness called college life, where I relish a night's rest, I am distraught with how bright it is in my room in Manhattan. Somehow, in this city that birthed me, I am reluctant to accept this "orange-ish-twilight zone" as pollution – rather it is illumination. Illumination born of the requirements of running a city 24/7. Can you imagine what would happen to tourism in NYC or to the various city services such as police and fire if complete darkness was mandated in the City?

Water pollution, air pollution, but light pollution? Who would have thought such a thing could exist? Put differently, how *can* there be such a thing when light's role is to illuminate? Wouldn't you rather know that the stars sacrificed their natural glow to make a mother worry less when a son is out on the town, or when a daughter decides to jog at night? In New York City, we sacrifice star gazing for our breathtaking skyline. Our stars are still there, we just can't see them all that well. Athens has its Parthenon, Istanbul its Harems, Rome its Coliseum, Paris its Eiffel Tower, and New York its skyline, a source of pride and tourist dollars. Stripping the City of its night skyline is like snuffing out its soul.

Without illumination, how else can New York City remain that place which never sleeps? Light at night has become so enmeshed in the city life and culture, that when the lights do go off (as in the summer 2003 blackout) New Yorkers don't know what hit them. While the infamous blackout was a ramification of the adverse effects of what the Dark Sky Society coins as "light pollution," Manhattanites treated it more as an affirmation of devotion to light.

Lockwood claims that "we've 'lost' 2,000 stars" but we all know that they're still up above, folks. Besides,

*see **Light**, page 17*

The Scientist's Bookshelf: Blink *by Malcolm Gladwell*

by Saad Chaudhry '12
Science & Technology Writer

Rating:
(out of 5 beakers)

Malcolm Gladwell has frequently published provocative articles in *The New Yorker* and wrote *The Tipping Point*, in 2000, —which, by the way, is still on the *New York Times* Best-Sellers List eight years after it was first published.

Nonetheless, such lists are not always very meaningful, as one might learn after noticing the list contains such pseudoscientific trash as *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne, which is claimed to be about the human subconscious's metaphysical connection with tangible reality. Still, for readers who wish to actually learn some truthful observations about the human subconscious through immensely entertaining anecdotes, Gladwell recently published a book titled *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*.

Blink is essentially focused on intuition and its influence on our perception of truthfulness, success, and overall reality. Gladwell opens the book with a true story involving an ancient Greek statue that became available on the market for approximately $10 million. The work was very carefully preserved, and it was planned to be purchased by the Getty Museum in California. Like any responsible museum, The Getty compiled teams of analysts ranging from geologists to chemists to verify the statue was indeed authentic; they concluded the marble originated from the ancient Cape Vathy on the islands of Thasos.

After the team of experts spent fourteen months analyzing the statue's materials and structure and verified it authentic, three historians were informally taken to the statue. The first historian, Federico Zeri, was instantly appalled by the statue within the first two seconds of glimpsing it, claiming it was a fake. The second historian claimed the statue looked structurally proper, but it lacked the classic "spirit." The third historian claimed to have experienced a sense of "intuitive repulsion." After further investigations, because "something just didn't feel right," it was eventually discovered that the statue was indeed a fake created by Italian forgers in the 1980's.

Haste does not always make waste. *Blink* is a book about those first two seconds," Gladwell wrote. The mind processes an extensive quantity of information in a diminutive amount of time, and during the earliest seconds, or "blinks," of this processing, the mind filters the most prominent emotions, the most eminent facts, the most piercing opinions—all of which are done subconsciously without "you," or the conscious you at least, ever knowing.

Perhaps this is the realistic essence of "love at first sight." Maybe your mind could be subconsciously generating attractiveness to certain characteristics of a person you perhaps haven't even had a conscious thought about yet, but just happened to catch eyes with across that crowded room during an extremely entertaining quantum mechanics lecture in a course which was filled to overcapacity due to Hamiltonians' overwhelming love for advanced physics. Thus,

*see **Blink**, page 17*

Modern Keyboard Breaks the Mold

by Jessica Carroll '12
Science & Technology Writer

Technology has advanced in many diverse ways. There are iPods and cameras and robot vacuum cleaners and refrigerators with touch screens built in. These are the types of things that most people view as "technology"- a cool new gadget that will revolutionize some aspect of their life, be it anything from food to fun or something in between.

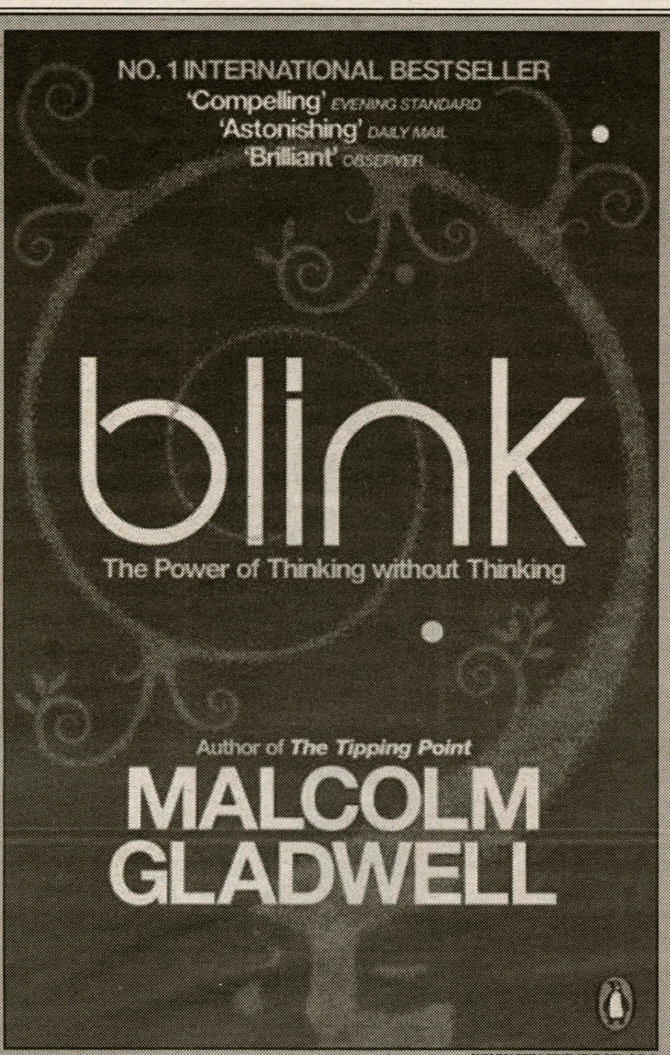
One sort of technology not often thought about, however, is the keyboard. They are everywhere on the Hamilton campus, usually attached to computers by a cord or built into the casing of a laptop. There is not much thought given to a keyboard- it appears that there are more varieties and better marketing for machines to help you clean your carpet.

Until now. Now there is the Optimus Maximus keyboard, which at first glance appears to be a fairly regular device for entering keystrokes. It consists of a white plastic base and keys that appear to be black with transparent caps that move downward so that the key can be pressed. This is, however, the boring part.

The exciting part comes when the keyboard is turned on. Instead of having the letters, numbers and symbols painted on or etched in, they are displayed. The squares underneath the clear plastic are actually 113 LED (light emitting diode) screens, each with a resolution of 48 X 48 pixels. For comparison, an average computer screen is approximately 800 X 1000 pixels with the overall range extending in both directions. These miniature screens display at first the regular QWERTY keyboard until the owner decides to change.

Due to the versatility of the keys, fonts on the keyboard can be changed. The letters can be made bold or italic or violet or orange or any combination of colors or fonts or even sizes. (If made too large the character will go off the screen.) For

*see **Optimum**, page 18*



WWW.PENGUINBOOK.ORG

from Scientist's, page 16

though Mr. Montague may have been hasty to sweep Ms. Capulet off her feet, he had no other choice, for we cannot control our subconscious, but merely understand it to the extent our efforts allow us.

Later in his book, Malcolm recounts another story, this time involving a famed psychologist, John Gottman, who has worked with thousands of married couples in his lab near the University of Washington not to provide marriage counseling, but rather to determine and reveal to these couples whether their marriages will last.

Gottman videotapes a married couple having a conversation about some mundane matter, such as a pet, and then analyzes the tape. After only fifteen minutes of analysis, Gottman has been able to achieve 90 percent accuracy in determining the success of the marriage, and after an hour's worth of analysis, he peaks at 95 percent accuracy. As a matter of fact, some scientists in his lab have stated a high percentage of accuracy after merely three minutes of analysis.

And what exactly is this fancy-schmancy analysis? Actually, it's something we do every day but often don't consciously acknowledge: hypothesize others' moods by simply looking at their facial expressions. Can you tell if a person is mad, sad, worried, (drunk), or in any other common state of mind by looking at his or her face? If so, congrats. You have the ability to do precisely what Gottman does, after a little practice trusting and submitting to those fuzzy, unclear feelings you sometimes get but don't know why.

Clearly, the series of anecdotes, two of which I have summarized, is exceedingly exciting to read; why then do I give the book a merely decent rating of three beakers?

Two words: *no substance.*

Blink's depth as concerning the mechanisms behind the psychological results demonstrated by the series of anecdotes is as shallow as a blink is quick.

Gladwell does not tell us how exactly the brain performs such amazing tasks; if a concise yet precise psychological explanation was given, or a chemical explanation, pertaining to the chemistry of the brain, was provided, the book would have and should have had greater scholarly ambitions in educating the reader on the subject matter.

Gladwell also romanticizes his book, which would have given me no problem had this book been a fictional novel. Gladwell does not tell the readers the frequency of the apparently miraculous events that occur in his anecdotes. He uses the extremes, and stays away from any applicable modes of applying the theory, a theory which—by the way—he describes throughout his book in bits and pieces yet never actually ties together to form a more connected and unified scientific theory.

In the end, this book was not very scholarly or informative, even for a mainstream "pop" read. Gladwell could have written an entertaining Nova or BBC Horizon documentary rather than a book that claims to be serious enough to be considered well-worth the time of scholars or prospective scholars such as those darn genius Hamiltonians. And if anyone thinks short science books cannot be entertaining and scholarly at the same time, Google Carl Sagan.

The Many Questions About Vertical Farming Revealed

from Possibilities, page 18

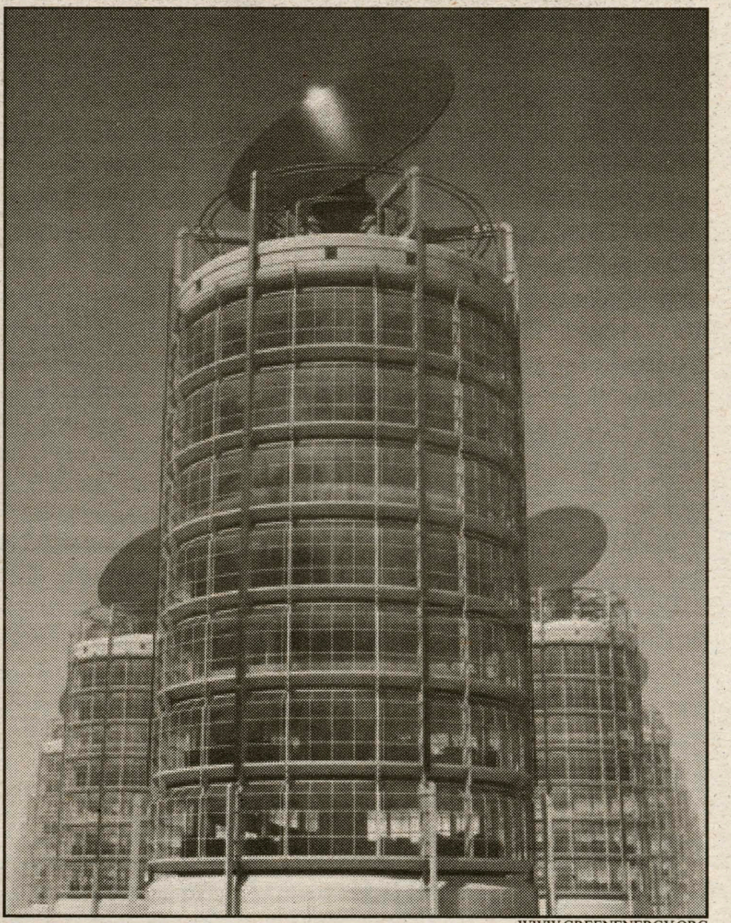
American standards). Despommiers cited profitability statistics based upon food prices at upscale NYC delis.

While the cost of vertically produced products would not necessarily be prohibitive for those living in prosperous, metropolitan environments (where prices are already high) it is questionable whether these crops would be feasible in other markets, such as growing cities in developing nations or suburban areas. Moreover, it is doubtful that any but most affluent nations would be able to invest in these technologies. And, as population growth is most rapid in developing nations, vertical farms might not be able to address some of the most critical demographics suffering with the food crisis.

However, there is no guarantee that any modern agricultural technology we invent could ever meet the growing demands of our global population. If we vastly increase the amount of food we produce with energy-intensive technologies, then the human population will continue to grow at its current rate, perhaps even accelerating. We must seriously consider the population crisis alongside the food crisis if we are to combat the re-source challenges we face.

Finally, there are questions about whether we should be investing in technologies which might undermine individual farmers. Both small-scale farmers and industrial farmers alike would be hurt by a switch to vertical farming, for these cropskrapers would require far less labor per acre of land farmed than current agriculture demands. A decrease in farming jobs would create a significant hole in the already deteriorating middle-class American job market.

So, though vertical farming sounds like an innovative and extremely efficient way to deal with the food crisis, there are still many questions surrounding this futuristic technology. It will have to overcome many obstacles before being implemented on a wide scale in the international food market.



WWW.GREENENERGY.ORG

Vertical farms would be energy independent, using the sun and the methane generated from the farm for power.

Light Pollution: A Part of Daily Life in Manhattan

from Where, page 16

New Yorkers who miss stargazing know that they can take a half-hour drive at night east (to Long Island) or north (Westchester) or south or west (New Jersey) and they can get a glorious view of the night sky. The bigger challenge is not finding the stars, but rather the New Yorker who has the time to engage in such idleness.

I love everything about the city: the dust, the traffic, the car alarms, sirens and even the lights at night. But if there's any alternative light source that would be less harmful to our planet, then taxpayers' dollars should be invested towards this end. The world already has the foreboding reality that global warming is dangerously creeping towards us. Since the energy crises of the 1970's, light sources have become more energy-efficient, i.e., less polluting. Of course more needs to be done. But throwing the city into darkness in the interests of reducing pollution is like turning off the power when the falling Times Square ball is half way through the final countdown on New Year's Eve.

You can't trick me into believing that my stars are gone. I know they're still up above. Many New Yorkers who suffered the aftermath of tragic 9/11 found comfort and consolation in looking at the skyline where hopes and dreams never fade. Everyone experiences moments of darkness, but New Yorkers will never have to waste away in darkness as long as we have our skyline.

Would you rather feel secure or scared? Compared to the avian flu, the war in Iraq or HIV/AIDS, too many lights seems an infinitesimal problem. While you may be lamenting the earth's destruction and the end to human life as we know it, look out at the horizon. The skyline should provide you with enough reassurance to get you through your pitch-black nights, knowing that that one spec of light might be where someone is laboring over Plan B for the continued existence of the human race. When people are not scared of darkness, they're hard at work. After all, it's not called the city that never sleeps for nothing.

New York City's skyline, like Lady Liberty's effervescent torch, is a beacon of light, attracting the country's and the world's best and brightest, who labor to make life better for themselves and everyone else. So lay off my skyline, *please!*

Huge Possibilities for Vertical Farming Tainted

by Laura Wright '10
Science & Technology Writer

Amongst the myriad of approaches being researched to improve sustainability in agriculture, vertical farming is the most fantastical. The idea is to introduce a means of growing produce in urban areas by building vertical farms. Just as genetically modified products attempt to maximize the agricultural utility of farm land, vertical farms attempt to revitalize barren, urban earth. With human population increasing so rapidly, the de-mand for food is increasing as the amount of arable land decreases due to urban sprawl, climate change, and global pollution (and this with 80 percent of fertile land already be-ing harvested!)

The "cropskrapers" of vertical farming could potentially become an efficient solution to the food crisis and be integrated with horizontal farming to meet our dietary needs. Dickson Despommier, a designer of vertical farms, says that "we need to devote as much attention to vertical farming as we did to going to the moon. It will free the world from having to worry where our next meal will come from." However, the idea of vertical farming is still in the design stages. The Vertical Farm Project has put forth several designs for vertical farms.

Vertical Farming would have a number of advantages, including year round crop production, the elimination of weather-related crop failures, growing all food organically, recycling black water, allowing abused farm land to be restored to its natural state, the conversion of black and gray water into potable water by collecting the water of evapotraspiration, adding energy back to the grid via methane generation, and reducing fossil duel emissions by eliminating tractors, plows and shipping

However, despite all of these advantages, which might prove true if the vertical farm were ever created, there is a significant amount of information suggesting that this idea is entirely ludicrous.

To begin with, we are talking about completely undermining the very manner in which life has flourished for millennia. As Chris Sullivan '09 put it, "Agriculture is the union of natural ecological processes and human ingenuity - we observe what happens in an unaltered ecosystem and incorporate these ecological principles. This technology disregards these principles by attempting to grow food in isolated, sterile environments which do not exist anywhere in nature."

To remove crops from the 'threat' of interaction with insects and environmental factors, such as weather, would be an incredible experiment in agriculture with infinite variables.

There would have to be an amazing amount of research into the reliability and safety of vertical crops before they could enter the food market. The Vertical Farming Project calls the environment they create for their crops 'organic;' however, we must consider whether organic production simply means a lack of pesticides and herbicides or if it implies something more about the simplicity of the way in which the crop is allowed to grow. Removing weeds and insects from interacting with crops in a sterile environment is not allowing for natural or organic growth.

However, philosophical qualms over the organic nature of this technology aside, there are still many complications facing vertical farming technologies.

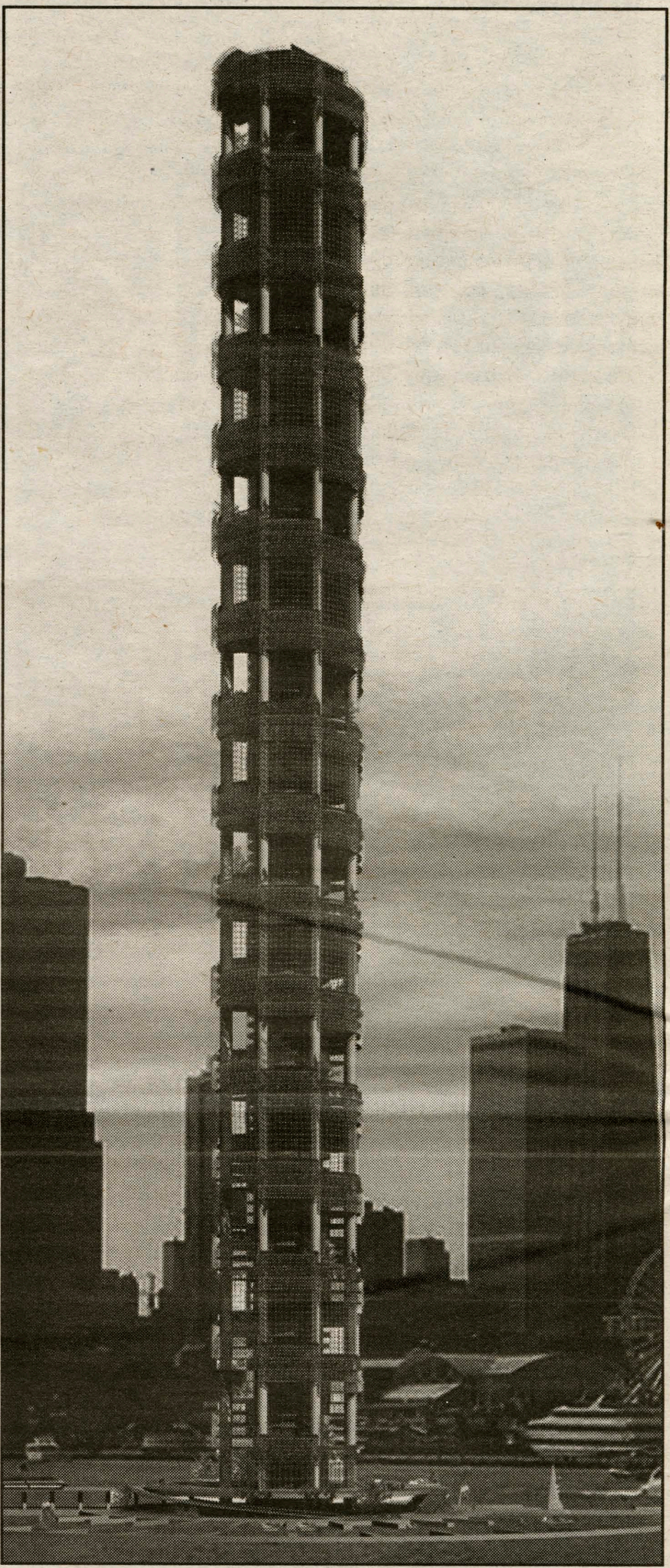
The energy demands of this technology would be incredibly high, despite the Vertical Farming Project's claims that they would produce energy using methane and recycle all black/grey water. The simple logistics of hauling in 21 stories of quality topsoil would be incredibly complex. Would this soil not have to come from land that in itself might be suited for farming?

The space allocated for the soil to occupy also seems concerning - with no depth to create soil horizons and for new topsoil to develop, soil would have to be hauled in every year to replenish the vertical farms.

The amount of energy required for these projects may very well prove astronomical, for removing weather from the agricultural equation requires that we artificially replace sunlight, rainfall, and natural pollination. All of these processes would be incredibly energy intensive to replicate, and surely the energy demands of a vertical farm could not be met by its own methane production or even with solar panels on the farm.

This elaborate and fantastic technology would not come without a price; the cost of a 21-story vertical farm would be about $84 million in initial construction, with an additional $5 million in annual operating expenses, according to Despommier's calculations. In order for this technology to be profitable, foods would be rather expensive (compared to

see *Many Questions*, page 17



WWW.BUZZINGWORLD.COM
Vertical farming involves erecting giant skyscrapers.

Optimus Maximus Part of New Keyboard Wave

from New Keyboard, page 16

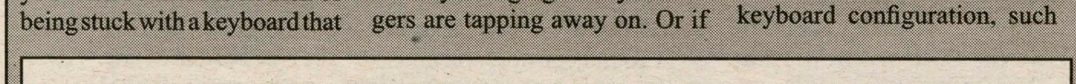
feature is exciting enough due to the fact that other keyboards are unchangeable without the addition of specialized stickers or a sharpie. The software allows you to change as often as you wish so there is no risk of being stuck with a keyboard that is not aesthetically pleasing.

This, however, is not the end. Pictures can be downsized and placed onto individual keys or spread across the entire keyboard so that it turns into a work of art in and of itself. Small animations can be placed into a screen, continually changing what your fingers are tapping away on. Or if one is an artist, a drawing made on the computer can be placed onto a key to represent another character or symbol.

Now these options do not change what happens when you press a key, only what that specific key looks like. To change the layout into another keyboard configuration, such as DVORAK, one must enter a separate menu. The creator's website boasts that the keyboard can provide "convenient use of any language—Cyrillic, Ancient Greek, Georgian, Arabic, Quenya, Hiragana, etc.—as well as of any other character set: notes, numerals, special symbols, HTML codes, math functions and so on to infinity." (Astute readers will take care to note that Quenya is a language found in J. R. R. Tolkein's Lord of the Rings series - further proof of this keyboard's customizability - the language does not even have to exist in this world.) Keys can even be programmed to automatically open up applications such as Word, Firefox or iTunes.

In short, one could put nearly anything on the keys and make them do nearly anything when pressed. With 65,536 colors available on the screens even slight color variations will show true to the original image, picture or drawing. And the keys even have a 160 degree viewing angle, meaning that you don't have to be directly above the keys to be able to appreciate the unique setup of each individual owner.

The Optimus Maximus keyboard was aptly named for it is, according to Gizmodo "not a small keyboard. This is probably the heaviest, biggest, and sturdiest keyboard we have ever used." Not only does the Maximus have customizability but the heft and weight to prove, in a way, that it was meant to be. However, for 44,000.00 pence (approx $1877.43) it is one's own decision as to whether it was meant to be on their desk.



WWW.NEWTECHNOLOGIES.COM
The Optimus Maximus keyboard is among the newest innovations in keyboards.

Sports Opinion: The Return of an NFL Legend

by Jared Leslie '09
Sports Writer

For 16 spectacular seasons, Brett Favre was god-like to Green Bay Packers fans. On March 4, 2008, the cheese head nation wept alongside Favre as he announced his retirement from the National Football League. At the press conference Brett said, "I know I can play, but I don't think I want to and that's really what it comes down to." He and his agent, Bus Cook, eluded that Favre would consider playing in the NFL again, but said that another season in the NFL would only be successful if Brett led his team to another Super Bowl Victory.

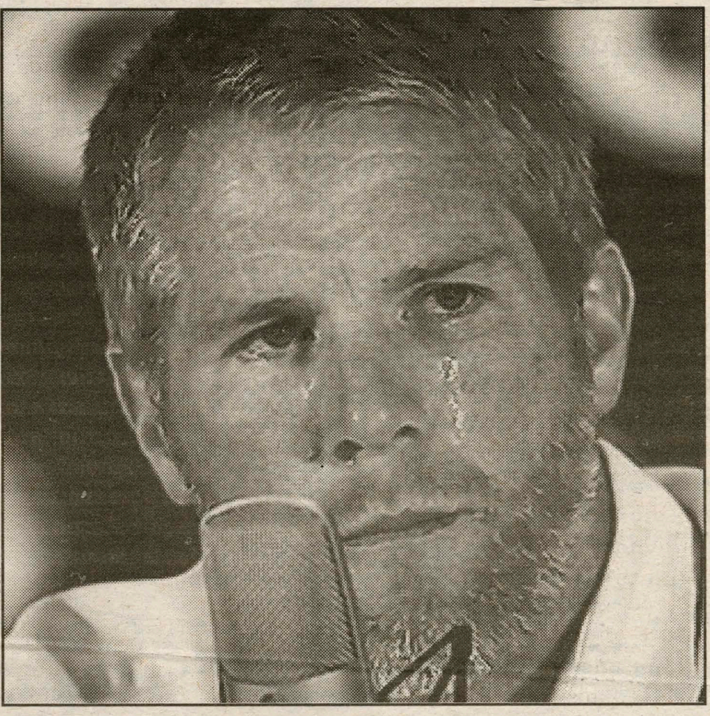
On July 2, 2008, after four months of being officially retired from the NFL, Brett seemed to have a change of heart, and contacted the Packers about his possible return to the team. It would be assumed that a nine time Pro Bowler and three-time NFL MVP would be welcomed back with open arms, but that was not the case. Packers General Manager Ted Thompson was adamant that the 2008 starting quarterback would be Aaron Rodgers.

Brett, feeling he needed to get his story out to the public, was interviewed by Fox's Greta Van Susteren. Favre made it clear that his retirement was premature and he was committed to playing in the NFL next season. His obvious frustration with the Packers' management was easily visible in the interview, in which he commented that he wished the Packers had been straightforward with him and the public, instead of being dishonest.

July 29, 2008, Brett Favre filed for reinstatement in the NFL, and it was granted by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to be effective August 4, 2008. Favre reported to Packer's training camp, where he met with Coach Mike McCarthy and General Manager Ted Thompson. At the conclusion of the meeting the Packer's management and Brett agreed that it would be better for both parties to separate.

The Packer's traded Brett Favre after negotiations with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the New York Jets. Favre would become a Jet in a complex deal that was based on the percentage of snaps Brett took and the overall success of the Jets in the 2008 season. Once the deal was made public, the Brett Favre New York Jet's #4 Jersey sold 6,500 copies in 24 hours on NFL.com. This broke the old record of jersey sales record, held by Tony Romo, by nearly 900 jerseys. With newfound excitement for Favre in New York, there was a microscope on his performance opening day in Miami. The first practice Brett Favre took part in as a Jet was attended by an estimated 10,500 fans and in N.Y., Mark Cannizzaro wrote, "Never before has a Jets training camp session had this kind of buzz." The New York Jets took on the Dolphins and Favre did not disappoint. He threw for 194 yards and two touchdown passes, ensuring the win over the Dolphins 20-14. Brett Favre commented that he had a great career with the Packers, but it was time to move on and he is proud to be a Jet.

There is no doubt that, at age 38, Brett Favre still has the skill to dominate on the football field. Travis Blood '09, a football enthusiast said, "Favre may be old, but he still has it." If Favre had stayed retired, he would have been eligible for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2013, which is without question the ultimate destination of Favre after his illustrious career. The New York Jets picked up an individual completely dedicated to the game of football and not only will he win them games, but put fans in the stands, too.



Brett Favre gets choked up at a recent press conference.

Write for Sports! E-mail bleibsoh or lgetman

Hamilton by the Numbers

Women's Soccer
3-0

Men's Soccer
2-0

Men's Tennis
1-0

Volleyball
1-4

Field Hockey
0-1

Instant Replay Contested

by Andrew Perkowski '10
Sports Writer

It was twelve years ago this October that Jeffrey Maier forever endeared himself to Yankee fans by making one of the most infamous catches in baseball history. On one fateful night in the Bronx, the twelve-year old Maier extended his glove into the field of play and caught what was a game-changing home run by rookie Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter. Despite the dogged protests of then-Orioles outfielder Tony Tarasco, and his manager Davey Johnson, umpire Rich Garcia ruled that there was no fan interference on the play and so cemented Maier's legacy in Yankee history. The call gave Jeter a home run, and sparked a Yankee team that would go on to win the World Series that year, and three more in the following four seasons.

When Major League Baseball implemented its new instant replay formula earlier this month, the sport took pains to make sure an incident like the one involving the Yankees and Orioles in the 1996 American League Championship Series would never happen again. A quick caveat to Cubs fans - the threat of a recurring Steve Bartman-type incident is very real, as you will find below.

Of course, in doing so, baseball has taken a dangerous step into the technological era. The process, which allows umpires to only review fair and foul home run calls, and fan interference on home runs, is now functional in all 30 Major League ballparks. Proponents of the move heralded the decision made by baseball executives and owners, claiming the league has been overdue in joining other American sports that use replay. The National Football League and the National Basketball Association eagerly adopted advanced forms of review in 1999 and 2002, respectively. According to a recent ESPN poll, 82 percent of Americans believe instant replay for home runs and foul balls is good for the sport, and over 45 percent of Americans, in a different poll, feel baseball should make review possible for additional calls.

For baseball purists, this push to modernize the game comes at far too great a cost. The sport has long prided itself on maintaining what is referred to as the human element: the notion that umpires are as much a natural element of the game as a gust of wind that forces a ball foul, or rays of sunshine that conceal a deep fly. Unlike other sports, baseball is fundamentally dependent on umpires; they dictate the flow of the game, and their judgment is relied on at virtually every moment. To second guess that judgment would be to undermine the foundation on which the game was built – the baseball judiciary system. Umpires have become increasingly scrutinized in recent years, yet it seems as if baseball has survived under their judgment for well over one hundred years. In this age of entitlement, we selfishly argue to alter a cherished tradition. Sadly, this is indicative of baseball's growing disenchantment with umpires and the financial dichotomy that has grown between officiator and player; as of 2008 the top salaried umpire earns less than the lowest salaried Major Leaguer.

As for the introduction of replay, one must wonder what further technological "advancements" may lie ahead. If baseball executives, perennially apprehensive towards allowing technology in their game, were persuaded to allow one form of replay, what's to stop them from approving more? If Commissioner Bud Selig, who has been outspoken as a baseball purist, couldn't say no to replay, perhaps a more progressive-minded successor would implement further reforms.

One of the outspoken adversaries of the new system is Cubs' manager Lou Pinella, a man notorious for his dramatic confrontations with umpires. He has said he fears that the new rule may "turn into a fiasco." Baseball must take pains, however, to keep this new phenomenon in check. Watching "Sweet Lou" trade in his fiery blowups for red challenge flags would be an absolute tragedy for many who feel that the sport must make certain that day never comes.

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SPECTATOR SPORTS

September 12, 2008

Men's Soccer Routs SUNY IT in Home Opener

Daniel Hagemeier '12
Sports Writer

The 2008 college soccer season is underway, and the Hamilton College Continentals opened with a great start. Last Saturday, the men's soccer team won its first game in a non-league duel at Rochester Institute of Technology. Falling behind 0-1 in the fifty-second minute, Head Coach Perry Nizzi's team showed great strength and morale to turn the game around and win 2-1.

Forward Paul Moakler '10 scored in the fifty-seventh minute to tie the game after an unlucky save by Rochester's goalkeeper. Frank Campagnano '12 decided the game eight minutes later after he scored his first goal in his first game for the Continentals. He netted the ball in after a corner kick from Marcus Dormanen '10. For the rest of the game, Hamilton's team defended their one-goal lead.

In the second game of the season, the team helped Coach Nizzi capture his 100th career win at Hamilton. The Continentals beat SUNY Institute of Technology in the second straight non-league match of the year, 3-0 on Wednesday. Just four minutes into the game, Joseph Houdson '10 put the team in front of off of Sam Dwyer's '10 free kick. Near the end of the first half, Max Akuamoah-Boateng '09 connected on a pass from Bennett Weinerman '11 and scored the second goal of the game.

Having scored in his first game for Hamilton against Rochester, Campagnano recorded his first assist for the Continentals when he passed to wide-open Hudson who headed the ball into the net for his second goal of the game in the 63rd minute. After falling behind 0-3, SUNY Institute of Technology had no chance to come back into the game, and the Continentals recorded their first shutout of the season.

Coach Nizzi, in his eleventh season at the helm of the soccer team, and his players have great expectations for the upcoming season. After playing in the NCAA Tournament three times in the past four years, including first-round victories in 2004 and 2007, the Continentals want to follow up their long history of success.

Led by team captains Akuamoah-Boateng, Anthony Carello '09, and Michael Hannan '09, the team wants to earn another trip to the tournament. Last year, the Continentals beat New York University 2-0 in the first round, and eventually lost to New Jersey City University in the second round. The team finished the season with a 10-5-3 record, which marked the seventh time that they have reached a double-digit record in this decade.

The Continentals recruited eight players from the incoming freshman class (five of them played at some point during the season-opener) and will start the season with 37 players on the roster. Seven starters returned to the team including midfielder Akuamoah-Boateng, a three time Liberty League all-star and team leader in points last year. He scored four goals and recorded two assists. Goalkeeper Carello was a big reason for Hamilton's success in the Liberty League last year. He did not allow a goal in 10 of the Continental's 18 games and recorded 69 saves.

Midfielder Hannan returned after playing in only 27 games during the past three years. The other refurning starters are Sam Dwyer (two goals, three assists), Jesse Arroyave '11 (four goals, one assist), Joseph Hudson (three goals) and Paul Moakler '10. On defense, starters Marcus Dormanen '10 and Daniel McGowan '11 are back. Of all the players on the roster, 10 Continentals earned a spot on the league's all-academic team this past season.

After winning the first game of the season, the Continentals will face at least 13 more opponents. Six of them are games against non-league teams. These include the season's home opener on Love Field this past Wednesday against SUNY Institute of Technology. Upcoming soccer games on Love Field include matches against Ithaca College (September 13), St. Lawrence (September 26), and Clarkson (September 27).

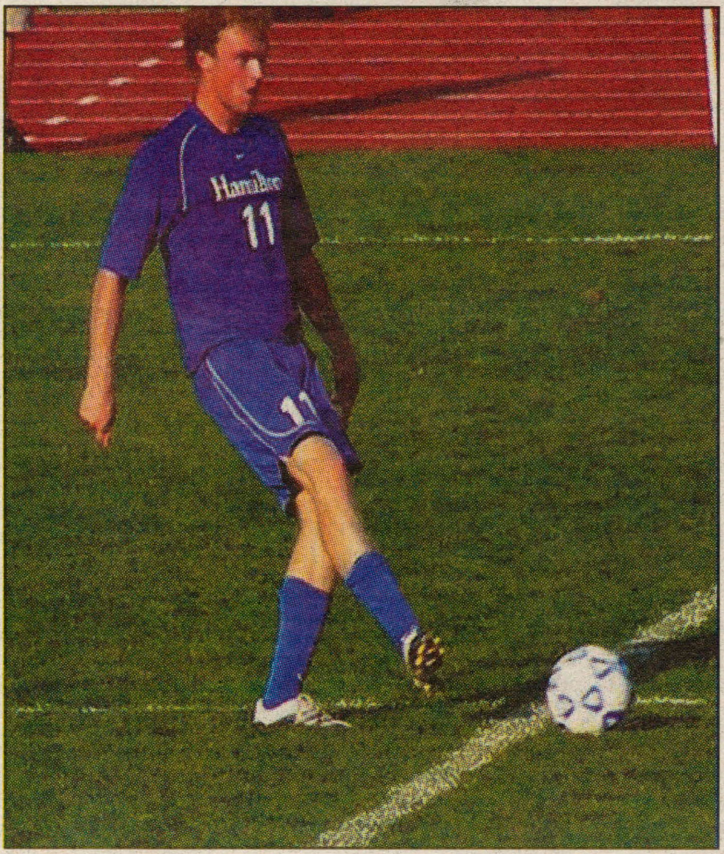

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA RADLINSKI '10

Marcus Dormanen '10 has one assist so far this season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA RADLINSKI '10

Maxwell Akuahmoah-Boateng '09, Jesse Arroyave '11, Billy Ford '10 and Dan Dropkin-Frank '11 line up during a free kick.

Golf Finishes Third

First Years Give Team a Boost

by Brandon Leibsohn '10
Sports Editor

After finishing second in the Liberty League Championships last April, the Men's Golf Team came on strong in its season opener at the St. Lawrence Invitational last weekend. Stiff competition from 14 collegiate teams located in the United States and Canada provided an exciting atmosphere for the Continentals. Hamilton came away with a third place finish behind two Canadian universities.

On Saturday, the team came out swinging with a collective score of 305 strokes. Even more impressive than the opening round performance was the play of LJ Scurfield '12 who held his own on the long course, shooting a respectable four-over par. He teamed with returning team-leader Brad Roche '11 to give the Continentals a fighting chance for the overall title on day two.

Starting the final day in fourth place down by 10 strokes to the University of Waterloo made it even more critical for the players to eliminate mistakes and capitalize on birdie putts. Scurfield led the way with a 72 to finish in a tie for fourth place overall of the 72 competitors in the tournament field. Roche again came up strong with a 74 to earn seventh place overall.

The play of Dave Christie '09, Jeff Corbett '09, and Kevin Osborne '09 completed the turnaround with rounds of 79, 75, and 80 respectively. Overall, the Continentals finished with the second-best score of the day to finish as the top NCAA team in the field. Hamilton dominated the defending NCAA Tournament semifinalist St. John, which finished in second-to-last place giving the Continentals its first win over a top 10 team in over six years.

Scott Blosser '12 is an additional asset that the team will be able to rely on this season. He played in the individual tournament at St. Lawrence. His two rounds would have made him a valuable member in team competition, as he finished seventeenth overall with a final round of 74.

This weekend the team will head to Middlebury College for the Duke Nelson Invitational where they finished fourth out of 24 teams last season. If they are able to utilize the stellar play of the underclassmen, then the Continentals have a great shot at improving that finish with a victory.

The following weekend, the team will head to Williams in a tune-up for the NESCAC Championship Qualifier near the end of the month. Great things are expected for this year's squad and it could mark the beginning of the Continentals' reign over the NESCAC.